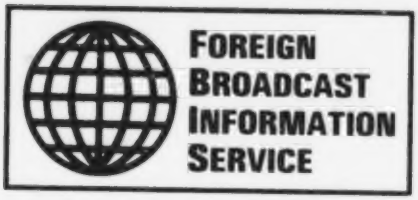

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Arab Summit Conference

The Iran-Iraq war, the Gulf situation, and Syrian-Iraqi relations were discussed during a 4-hour meeting attended by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Amman radio reported. Other participants at the meeting in King Husayn's hotel suite included the Saudi crown prince, the Kuwaiti amir, and the presidents of the UAE, Algeria, and the YAR. Sources in Amman cited by WAKH said the talks produced "positive results" and turned a "new leaf" in Syrian-Iraqi relations, noting that Al-Asad and Saddam Husayn "embraced and held a friendly conversation" during a subsequent dinner banquet given by King Husayn. A Jordanian source said the two leaders reached a "historic reconciliation" which will help the Arab leaders resolve the problems facing them, Amman's *Sawt al-Sha'b* noted.

King Husayn had earlier persuaded Saddam Husayn not to withdraw from the conference in protest against the "feeble" support for Iraq, according to a source at the summit cited by Beirut radio. In a speech at the conference transmitted by INA, the Iraqi leader criticized those who "have allied themselves with the vile foreign aggressor," and he warned the conference against allowing "the minority to dominate the majority and obstruct decisionmaking and movement." The conference must take decisions "without hesitation even if one or more parties do not agree on this," Saddam Husayn said. Praising Iraq's performance in the war with Iran, he maintained that Iraq has provided an example of "mastering the arts of war" which is "many times greater than that of the Arab nation in its battles against the Zionist enemy." Saddam Husayn also confirmed that Iraq is asking the conference to study and discuss relations with Egypt in light of the "very important changes" in Egypt and the Arab world since 1978.

However, a spokesman for the Syrian delegation subsequently stressed that any attempt at the summit to end the freeze on Egypt's Arab League membership "will do away with any positive results that may be reached by the conference," Damascus radio reported. Noting that Egypt is still bound by the Camp David Accords not to abide by the collective Arab defense pact and the Arab League Charter, the spokesman wondered how it is possible to discuss Egypt's return to the Arab League when Israel maintains an embassy and flag in Cairo.

As for the discussion on the floor of the conference, Amman television broadcast the Jordanian foreign minister's statement that the 9 November closed session focused on the results of Iranian attacks and threats against Gulf states, efforts to convene an international conference on the Arab-Israeli issue, Egypt's return to Arab ranks, and the Lebanese issue. The debate was held in a "fraternal spirit" and an atmosphere of "frankness and amity," he said. The television also carried remarks on the summit by Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan, who said the conferees are aware of the need to express a "regional will" on the Gulf conflict and to conclude the conference with a statement clearly addressed at Iran. Otherwise the Arabs will find themselves "spoken for," he said, referring to the large naval presence in Gulf waters, which "bears very little relevance to the justification for that presence." The Arabs have a shared interest in scaling down not only the Iran-Iraq conflict but also the level of international involvement in the Gulf, he added.

King Husayn's dinner banquet for Arab leaders was "boycotted" by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Radio Monte Carlo reported, citing sources who viewed this as a reflection of 'Arafat's desire to be given "a larger degree of personal and pan-Arab tribute."

Tehran radio and television broadcast commentaries lambasting the conference chaired by "Shah" Husayn. The "weak" Arab summit is merely a move to "sidetrack the principled struggle against the Zionist enemy," the radio said, and it is not expected to adopt decisive stands on the issues under discussion.

Gulf Conflict

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz charged that Iran is preparing a "large-scale offensive" which could be launched "at any time," Amman radio reported. 'Aziz, who was speaking to journalists at the Arab summit, reiterated that his country will continue to shell Iranian military and industrial targets as long as Tehran refuses to accept UN Security Council Resolution 598.

An "official Iraqi source" cited by INA denied a Tehran radio report that the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad was damaged in an attack by "revolutionaries" who object to the Amman summit.

Iran

A "terrorist" responsible for recent bomb explosions in Kordestan and Bakhtaran Provinces has been arrested in Marivan, IRNA reported, adding that two other suspects were apprehended in Baneh last week.

Tunisia

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali chaired a meeting of the "restricted ministerial council" which discussed the budget and the development plan for 1988, Tunis radio reported.

Tanks guarding the Presidential Palace have been removed, and only metal barricades and a few policemen remain, Paris radio reported, adding that former President Habib Bourguiba was helicoptered to his residence

40 km from Tunis. The station also noted that members of former Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali's family were to be freed to join him in Paris. Habib Achour, former secretary general of the Tunisian General Federation of Labor, was released from house arrest, according to an "authoritative source" cited by Tunis radio.

Lebanon

Suspension of Strike—The Trade Union Federation's Central Council decided to suspend the general strike, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. The decision followed demonstrations by "tens of thousands" of people in both parts of Beirut demanding action to improve living conditions, the radio noted.

Amal-Palestinian Agreement—An Amal Movement official cited by Beirut radio announced that building materials were brought into the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah refugee camps 9 November in accordance with the 11 September agreement on ending the camps war. Palestinian leaders have decided to withdraw a battalion from positions east of Sidon shortly in response to this "positive measure," the radio added.

Hamiyah Resignation—'Aql Hamiyah resigned his post as Amal military leader, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The resignation was followed by clashes in southern Beirut between Hamiyah's supporters and those loyal to Amal leader Nabih Birri, Radio Free Lebanon stated.

Gaza Strip

IDF radio reported that an Arab girl was shot dead by an Israeli settler near the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp 10 November. The settler opened fire when his car was pelted with stones by students from the local girls school.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Further on Amman Extraordinary Arab Summit

Chedli Klibi Addresses Summit

JN081829 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1612 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Speech by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi at the opening session of the extraordinary Arab summit held at the Royal Cultural Palace in Amman on 8 November—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Majesty, summit chairman, Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Your Highnesses: It is a source of great pride for our nation and one of the manifestations of the vital solidarity which exists among its countries that the leaders decided to hold this extraordinary summit to discuss very grave perils of far-reaching consequences which pose a threat to our countries' security and harm the nation's fate.

Your Majesty, summit chairman, in view of your wisdom, resolution, and farsightedness, Your Majesty has had a memorable role in producing the factors and the propitious circumstances for the convocation of this summit. Your Majesty has exerted commendable efforts and intensive contacts with your brothers, the leaders of our nation, to prepare for this meeting. There is no doubt your efforts will produce good results in achieving the hopes our nation pins on this summit. With your permission, I would like to convey to you my respect and admiration.

Your Majesty, Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses, the convocation of the summit under these circumstances in which various challenges have intensified means, first of all, that our countries are determined to achieve the conditions for a joint confrontation. This is proof of the vitality of this bond which holds the nation together, unites it on the same level and within the same framework of integrated efforts, and allows it to have a harmonious concept of common fate. This bond is unparalleled by any of the regional organizations which exist in various parts of the world. This bond deserved the name league because it is a pan-Arab organization which binds members of the same nation.

Your Majesty, Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses, fraternal Iraq, which is one of our forward bastions and the repository of a glorious portion of our nation's heritage, has been facing continuous aggression against its territory and cities and against Basra and Baghdad, two of the most important lighthouses of our Arab Islamic civilization, for many years. We cannot erase from our minds the tribulations of our Arab people in Iraq. This can only make us proud of the determination, intrepidity, steadfastness, and heroism they manifest daily. We also cannot forget for one moment the perils that are engulfing the security of our countries in the Arab Gulf as a result of the prolongation of this war, particularly since missiles were fired on one of our countries which has made peace one of its habits and following the incidents that disturbed the pilgrimage in a peaceful and secure country.

From the beginning, Arab summits have dealt with Iran with good intentions, reiterating time and again a call for the acceptance of the peace option, a just and honorable peace in accordance with what the principles of Islam dictate and the provisions of international law. In spite of all these attempts, what has taken place in recent months has shown that all of these strenuous efforts failed to produce any result. While Iraq demonstrated its complete readiness to settle the conflict peacefully and the Arab countries sought to mediate to increase peace opportunities and establish good neighborliness, Iran insisted on pursuing the war and has carried out a series of practices that exacerbated regional tension. It planted mines in territorial and international waters. It attacked oil tankers and arranged for evil sedition on the land of holy Mecca during the recent pilgrimage. It also leveled serious threats at fraternal Kuwait's security. This has made our countries fear the expansion of the conflgration.

Our countries cannot ignore the fact that the prolongation of the war with the threat to pan-Arab security that this entails will harm our nation's capability to confront the Israeli aggression, weakens its ability to liberate Palestine, Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories, and makes our nation impotent as far as foiling Israel's designs of expansion and hegemony against the Arab region.

Your Majesty, Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses, never in the history of the United Nations has there been so complete a consensus among all of its members, be they Western, Eastern, or developing, on the necessity for an immediate halt to a regional war as happened regarding the Iraq-Iran war. This unanimous international will, which our countries must take the largest share of the credit for, found expression through the efforts of the seven-man ministerial committee in UN Security Council Resolution 598.

While Iraq, in keeping with its constant position, declared its compliance with international legitimacy, Iran has been shirking compliance with the Security Council resolution and placing obstacles to its enforcement. Iran has thus defied the international community. It carries a heavy responsibility before the Muslim conscience for the continued, unwarranted waste of Muslim blood. The extremely serious developments in the Iraq-Iran war gives our countries the right to take all possible measures to defend our territory and protect our peoples against all forms of aggression or hegemony. We must wonder about the Iranian leadership's perception of the Israeli aggression against the entire Islamic nation.

It is evident that continued military hostilities in the Gulf are a relief for Israel which is planning and scheming to fan the fires of the war and widen its circle to divert attention from its aggression against the Palestinian people, its practices against our people in the occupied land, its interference in Lebanon, and its occupation of a significant part of southern Lebanon. In this regard, it should not escape our attention that Israel invaded Lebanon and occupied Beirut and bombed the Iraqi [nuclear] reactor in Baghdad and the PLO headquarters on the outskirts of Tunis only after an escalation of the Iraq-Iran war and an insistence on pursuing the war. Israel therefore is using all means of influence at its disposal to ensure a continuation of the Gulf war to strike at Arab-Islamic solidarity, having split Arab ranks and undermined the confrontation of the [Arab] nation of the Zionist aggression.

We can justifiably say that an overlapping of the Iranian insistence on pursuing the war with the intensification of the Arab-Israeli conflict has posed threats to pan-Arab security that are unprecedented in their gravity since the establishment of Israel. Add to that attempts that have been under way for some time to make up crises between Islam and Arabism, as if the two were uncomplementary opposities. History bears testimony to the fact that Islam and Arabism are close synomyms in terms of cultural goals and action. In light of these facts our states are called upon to initiate a planned and collective action in the regional and international arenas as soon as possible to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 as an indivisible whole and in accordance with the sequences of the text of the resolution. If Iran refuses to respond to the international resolution, then it is necessary to demand the international community implement the provisions of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter.

However, in the medium and long terms, it is necessary to work for achieving solidarity based on common interests to collectively confront the Zionist threats, cooperate in the battle of development, and to confidently eliminate backwardness.

Your Majesty the King, your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses, regarding the discussion of the extremely serious issue that is presented to the esteemed summit, common convictions will emerge among our states. I have personally felt them with all our leaders without exception. The first conviction is that the war between Iraq and Iran, which has entered its 8th year, has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of youths from both countries, in addition to material losses. Throughout the long experience, it has become clear that regardless of how strong Iran's insistence on continuing the war is, it will not achieve any decisive military gains. The second conviction is that it was expected that if this war continues, international tensions will reflect on the Gulf region due to its important and strategic position. These concerns have turned into current realities. This is in addition to all possibilities if the war continues and the security situation deteriorates.

The second conviction is that Iraq has responded to the will of the international community and expressed its readiness to implement it. Iraq has also responded to all past initiatives and proposals to achieve a just and lasting peace. In addition, the ending of the war has become a unanimous Arab demand which was expressed by the Arab League Council through its unanimous resolution which was issued early last April. It has also become a unanimous international demand through UN Security Council Resolution 598.

The fourth conviction is that our states had aspired for distinguished relations with the Iranian revolution since its eruption. We did so because Iran adopted a nonaligned policy, severed relations which the shah established with Israel, and supported the Palestine question in general and the issue of holy Jerusalem in particular. Our states still seek to restore amity among all the region's states and they are seriously seeking to achieve this objective. We can sum up these common convictions if our states are unanimous in the belief that ending the war is a prerequisite for focusing Arab efforts on basic issues.

Your Majesty the King, Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses, our Arab nation is looking forward to the day when the Iraq-Iran war ends and when the two states begin to lift the rubble and to rebuild what the war destroyed to mobilize efforts to continue struggle against Zionist hegemony and to liberate Jerusalem and all the occupied Arab territories.

Only 6 days have passed since the 70th anniversry of when British Minister Balfour violated the Palestinian people's rights. He gave these rights to groups that came from various parts of the world with the objective of colonizing Arab territory and imposing their hegemony over the region. By so doing, he created the misdeed of the 20th Century. This is a flagrant violation of the principles of freedom and human rights which the Western world defends. During the next year, the Zionist aggression which began against Palestine will witness its 40th year, throughout which our Palestinian people lived under the treacherous occupation or homeless in the camps of the diaspora. Twenty years also passed this year on the 1967 aggression which imposed new occupations on several areas in the Arab world. Most of these areas are still living under the yoke of occupation. Our kinfolk in these areas are confronting with unique courage all forms of repression, confiscation of land, destruction of houses, expulsion of citizens, and closure of schools and universities. They are also facing all forms of arrests, detention, and torture, in addition to destruction of the national economic base.

Attacks on refugee camps, towns, and villages by the occupying army and also by the settler gangs have become part of the daily life in the occupied Arab territory as well as in southern Lebanon. Despite the harshness of such actions the results were completely contrary to what the Israeli leaders had hoped. The

steadfastness was maintained. The struggle continued and its burden on the Zionist suppression machine is increasing daily. However, amid all such suffering, we must not lose sight of the objectives of the Zionist plan, Israel's ambitions in the area, and the need to foil them with all available means.

We believe that—despite some manifestations—the Arab situation in the face of Israel possesses strong points which the enemy cannot easily overcome. These strong points are the continuation and growth of the internal struggle, our countries' deterrent capability in the confrontation, and the adherence of the PLO, which leads the Palestinian struggle—together with the adherence of all the Arab states—to the logic of international legality through a commitment to the Fes peace plan for the Middle East and to all international resolutions. These capabilities are strengthened through a reassessment of Arab and international efforts made ever since the 1982 Fes peace plan to agree on a plan for joint Arab action that aims to organize political coordination and strengthen Arab ability for a confrontation.

We believe certain declared stands must not undermine the determination of our countries to continue efforts to persuade the international community to initiate a genuine peace process that enables the Palestinian people to regain their national rights, returns the usurped lands to their owners, and ends the law of the jungle which Israel wants to prevail in the area. We also believe that the efforts to convene an international conference must always be backed by united Arab efforts to confound the sides that seek to foil the plan by all means. We must also not forget that the stands of others toward our causes and rights will be positive inasmuch as others find the will of our states firm, solid, and based on a close solidarity among all Arab states.

Your Majesty, Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses, one of our countries is still suffering from the woes of fragmentation, the lack of security, and the Zionist occupation of one of its important parts. I mean Lebanon, whose people embraced the Palestinian revolution, and who together with the Palestinian revolution confronted daily aggression by the Israeli enemy. Then the Lebanese people were the victim of a total war waged on them by Israel in 1982. During and after that war the Zionist enemy embarked on the ugliest practices in modern history, practices contrary to all humanitarian principles and international conventions.

The Arab nation and the world have greatly appreciated and admired the resistance methods with which Lebanon has confronted the Israeli occupation. The tribulation there becomes more harrowing. Economic potentialities decrease and the Lebanese currency collapses. Our people there are under dire economic straits. Starvation affects large groups of the Lebanese people. Our children in Lebanon lack school materials and are sometimes without schools. They risk malnutrition and various diseases as a result of the absence of the most basic medical services and the lack of necessary equipment and medicines in hospitals.

As for southern Lebanon, it faces the threat of a further spreading of Zionist hegemony or of being dragged into policies which veer from the national and pan-Arab course. This may be caused by the lack of the material support they need to fulfill their basic needs for subsistence. This dismembered country, its steadfast people, and the Lebanese national resistance make us dutybound to ask this esteemed summit to pause with a spirit of brotherhood and solidarity on the Lebanese crisis, which has reached alarming proportions, adopt practical decisions and measures to save a people we all love, and help them in all fields until they regain their vigor, unite their ranks, liberate their land, and fully resume their role alongside their brothers within their Arab family.

Your Majesty, the summit chairman, Your Majesties, Your Excellencies, and Highnesses, viewpoints on some issues may differ, but we are confident that the pan-Arab sense of responsibility and the sound assessment of national interests are capable of eliminating all obstacles, beginning with the clearing of the Arab atmosphere and the restoration of unity to the Arab family to establish an accord that allows it to pursue its joint action in all the spheres in which pan-Arab security is vital. Yes, our countries will pursue their struggle for peace on all fronts, united, and our chances of gaining this wager will increase when our nation emerges from this summit more united and with its solidarity more enhanced. May God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Kuwait, Djibouti Leaders Meet

JN081949 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Text] His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah has met at his place of residence His Excellency President Hassan Gouled Aptidon of Djibouti. The meeting was attended by several members of the Djibouti and Kuwaiti delegations.

Bendjedid Meets Al-Asad, Others

LD082046 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] President Chadli Bendjedid, who has been in Amman since yesterday, has already met on the fringes of the summit with his Syrian counterpart, Hafiz al-Asad, the chairman of the Sudanese State Council, and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

WAKH on Closed Session

JN082118 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2035 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Text] Amman, 8 Nov (WAKH)—The WAKH team in Amman has learned that Arab leaders attending the extraordinary Arab summit emphasized in the closed session they held today the need to focus on the Iraq-Iran war and to find a solution to the war which now poses a threat to Arab security. Sources close to the conference told the WAKH team there is a strong inclination among Arab leaders to form a high-level committee [words indistinct]. The news agency has also learned that two other committees will be formed: one to discuss the Palestine cause and the other to look into the Lebanese crisis.

Al-Masri on Closed Session

JN082120 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1952 GMT 8 Nov 87

["Full recording" of press conference held by Tahir al-Masri, Jordanian foreign minister and official spokesman for the extraordinary Arab summit, at the Royal Cultural Center in Amman on 8 November]

[Text] As you have seen, the opening session was held on schedule. It was immediately followed by the closed session. His majesty the king, chairman of the summit, delivered a 60-minute national and comprehensive speech that came in 37 pages. The summit unanimously decided to consider the speech an official document of the summit. His majesty has named the summit: The Summit of Reconciliation and Agreement [Qimmat al-Wifaq wa al-Ittifaq]. He called on all Arab leaders not to hold on to the residues of the past and to excessive sensibility to national [qutriyah] issues.

His majesty classified the problems from which the Arab nation is suffering into two types: first, the Arab aspect of the problem which is connected with our Arab order and inter-Arab relations within the framework of our regional institutions. The second aspect is connected with our relations with others and with our disputes or cooperation with them. The Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iraqi-Iranian war come under this last classification. His majesty asserted that the two aspects are interlinked. He said that foreign states have used these to exploit our differences and to base their calculations toward the Arabs on a balance sheet of profit and loss and that was at the expense of pan-Arab interests.

During the period that preceded and followed the 1973 October war—when the Arab states were solidly united— countries dealt with us on the basis of our agreement. When the Arab world became divided later, the world continued to deal with us, but on a different basis. Countries dealt with us on a bilateral basis and not on a regional or a collective basis. We were dealt with separately, one country after the other. Such bilateral dealing became so established in both the Arab and foreign directions that it overshadowed the red lines that separate what is bilateral from what is pan-Arab. That method has achieved the interests of others and made the enemies of the Arab nation exploit the opportunity to expand, exercise hegemony, and ensure new positions for them. The pan-Arab approach diminished, the constitution of joint Arab action was undermined, and the strategic balance between the Arab nation and the alliance of its enemies was upset.

Iran's insistence on continuing its war against Iraq and, indeed, its attempts to expand its aggression against Kuwait and the other Arabian Gulf states, its attacks on international shipping and the shipping of states not party to the armed conflict, Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and its continued occupation of occupied Arab territory and persistence in imposing the fait accompli in the occupied Arab territory and Judaizing it are all a practical translation of the situation we have reached and which we have already explained. The situation has reached such an extent that countries view Iran as strategically more important than the entire Arab world. They curry its favor despite the insolence, intransigence, and demagoguery that characterize the Iranian regime and despite its persistence in continuing the war that has undermined regional security and threatens international security.

His majesty affirmed the pan-Arabism of the Palestine question saying it is essential to deal with this question on this basis. The king reviewed the aspects of the resemblance between the conflict with Iran and that with Israel. He said both Iran and Israel have territorial ambitions on the Arab world and both exploit religion for political purposes. The king added: It is only natural for the weakness that has afflected the Arab nation to have its impact on the Arab League and its organizations and charters.

His majesty affirmed the need to restore life to the Arab League which, he said, was established before any other regional organization. He added: If we do not do that, then we the Arabs will have met halfway with our enemies who want to divide our nation. The isolation of our big sister Egypt from the Arab League and the Arab body weakens the bases on which the Arab order is founded. All Arab leaders agree on the need to diagnose the causes of this weakness and retrogression. However, they have not yet agreed on the remedy and here lies the Arab dilemma. Therefore, unless we overcome this dilemma, the fault will remain and joint Arab action will be lacking.

His Majesty defined the reasons for the lack of agreement on unified stands on the major problems and challenges facing us and ways to tackle them. The reasons are:

1. Bilateral differences stemming from different political viewpoints, differences which should remain within the circle of direct, continuous fraternal dialogue.

2. Narrow pan-Arab perspectives due to each country's preoccupation with its own development, security, and defense concerns which has led to a gradual erosion of the awareness of the strong link between the strength of every Arab country and pan-Arab security.

3. Unjustifiable exaggeration in applying the principle of profit and loss in dealing with pan-Arab issues and too much reliance on intellectual profit, although events have proven this theory to be incorrect.

His majesty spoke in detail about the two main dangers threatening the Arab nation, namely, the Gulf war and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Regarding the first subject, his majesty referred to the following facts: There is no use continuing this war. Its termination is an Arab as well as an Islamic duty. Arab and Iranian interests must complement not contradict each other. The nature and development of the war have made the presence of foreign fleets in the Gulf an issue that cannot be separated from the war issue. A comprehensive resolution of the war through peaceful means is in the interest of both Iran and the Arabs.

The termination of the war removes from the region the trap of polarization and involvement in alliances and international confrontations. The termination of the war is an urgent necessity to conserve our Arab and Iranian resources and to use them in the service of our peoples. Our present meeting is under the scrutiny of our peoples and international forces. Our success in determining the correct course shall, by the same token, determine the bases of the world's dealing with us, not only on the subject of the war, but also on all other Arab issues. We must prove to the world that we have the means of continued existence.

His majesty called on the summit to adopt an explicit, firm resolution that will reflect Arab determination to end the war and follow up the mechanism of the implementation of that resolution.

With respect to the Palestinian cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict, his majesty explained the following points: The Palestinian problem is a dynamic and continuously changing issue. It requires some form of coordination and contacts between some of the directly concerned parties and several of the influential world countries. A unified Arab stand should be supported by the credibility of joint Arab action.

UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 are still waiting to be implemented. The Arab side has agreed to UN Security Council Resolution 338 which came to confirm Resolution 242. However, Israel seeks to abort and obstruct the resolution. Israel obstructed the convocation of an international conference. Israel succeeded in changing the U.S. role from that of a superpower which assumes special responsibilities toward world peace to that of a guardian of Israel and its interests. Israel invaded Lebanon where it achieved some of its objectives. It pursued the settlement operation in the occupied Arab territories and announced the annexation of the Golan Heights after having announced its annexation of Jerusalem. That's why we decided to focus our efforts on the issue of an international conference and to rally support for it.

Throughout the world, the convocation of an international conference has become the acceptable venue for achieving a peaceful, comprehensive, and just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly since our concept of an international conference is based on international legitimacy by having it convene under UN auspices and with the participation of the five UN Security Council permanent members and the other parties to the conflict, including the PLO, to solve the Palestinian iwssue from all of its aspects.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is a summary of the speech his majesty delivered at the closed session of the summit. There were no other speakers following his majesty. The session was adjourned until tomorrow.

Bahraini Amir Receives 'Arafat

JN082126 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2049 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Text] Amman, 8 Nov (WAKH)—Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah received at his place of residence in Amman today PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his accompanying delegation. The two sides discussed current developments in the Palestinian arena and issues to be discussed at the Arab summit with the objective of adopting resolutions that would serve the Arab nation's objective and achieve Arab solidarity.

Bendjedid Receives Mestiri

JN082128 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Text] Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid received at his place of residence in Amman today Mahmoud Mestiri, Tunisian foreign minister and head of the Tunisian delegation to the Arab summit.

Al-'Attas Meets UAE Head

EA090006 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, yesterday received in his residence in Amman H.H. Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, head of state of the United Arab Emirates. Bilateral relations and the nature of current circumstances in the Arab and international arenas were discussed during the meeting. [passage omitted]

In a press statement made following his arrival, Brother al-'Attas expressed his happiness at his arrival in brotherly Jordan to participate in the business of the emergency Arab summit conference. Brother al-'Attas and the delegation accmopanying him to the emergency Arab summit conference arrived in Amman earlier. [passage omitted] Following his arrival, Brother al-'Attas also expressed democratic Yemen's full confidence that the restoration of Arab solidarity and [word indistinct] joint Arab action is the most important way of passing through this difficult stage of the hsitory of our peoples. He added: We will spare no effort in contributing energetically and effectively to this great Arab action. With our conviction we are arriving in Amman with our brothers, the kings and presidents of the Arab states, to make the emergency Arab summit successful.

Amman Notes Leaders' Meetings

JN090644 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Amman—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, accompanied by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, last night visited His Excellency Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. Their talks lasted for some time. Lebanese President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil also received at his place of residence last night Mahmoud Mestiri, Tunisian foreign minister and head of the Tunisian delegation, accompanied by the Tunisian ambassador in Lebanon. The meeting was attended by Ghassan Tuwayni and Elie Salim. Mestiri briefed Al-Jumayyil on the developments in Tunisia. He conveyed to Al-Jumayyil the greetings of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Al-Jumayyil asked Mestiri to convey his greetings to President Ben Ali and wishes of success in resuming Tunisia's march.

His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, last night received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the accompanying delegation. They reviewed during the meeting current developments in the Palestinian arena in addition to the issues presented at the extraordinary Arab summit regarding positive and constructive resolutions in the service of the Arab nation's objectives of unity and solidarity as well as in the interest of the Palestinian issue. [passage omitted]

Iraq, Syria Hold Talks

JN090728 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Nov 87 p 1

[By Badr 'Abd al-Haq]

[Text] Well-informed Arab sources said Sunday the deliberations of Arab leaders during the first day of the extraordinary Arab summit indicated a minimum level of Arab unanimity over all topics of discussion. The source told the *Jordan Times* that His Majesty King Husayn's inaugural speech at the opening ceremony and the subsequent address, as outlined, to journalists by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, constituted a general framework of the course of the summit conference and was welcomed by Arab leaders.

On reconciliation efforts between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-asad, the source said a three-hour "in-depth dialogue" had taken place between the two leaders in the presence of King Husayn. The source, however, denied press reports that the two leaders met on Sunday, hours before the official opening of the summit conference. Top-level contacts were to continue through Sunday night to further the reconciliation effort. The source was almost positive that both leaders would meet before Monday morning.

Conference sources say that the Arab leaders are working to draft a compromise formula to be accepted by both sides, a formula that would ask Syria for flexibility on its support for Iran. Iraq's acceptance of the formula would open the door for "a new phase in Syrian-Iraqi relations," a step which will enable the Amman summit conference to bypass the most crucial hurdle before its success: different Arab stands on the Iran-Iraq war and the need to reach Arab unanimity on the subject. According to the sources the overnight contacts among the Arab leaders here were bound to be "intensified and diversified" to the extent that the summit might not convene any of its set sessions on Monday.

On efforts aimed at arranging a meeting between Mr. Asad and Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, the source said United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and other Gulf leaders had expressed willingness to join King Husayn in his efforts in that regard. The source said the question of readmitting Egypt to the Arab League was one of very important topics brought up during bilateral talks. The general trend now, the source said, is that Arab countries seeking restoration of diplomatic relations with Cairo may do that individually in order to avoid debate and schism.

Husayn Receives Leaders

JN090824 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn held a meeting at his place of residence today with His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE; His Excellency Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria; and His Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi deputy prime minister. The meeting was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i.

Bahraini Amir Receives Prince

JN090827 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0748 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Amman, 9 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, received Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan ibn Talal at his

place of residence in Amman this morning. They reviewed issues of common interest as well as topics on the agenda of the extraordinary summit being held in Amman. [passage omitted]

Husayn Receives Moroccan Prince

JN090829 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Moroccan Crown Prince Mohamed at his place of residence last night. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan.

Bahraini, Qatari Amirs Meet

JN090837 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0817 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Amman, 9 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, met with his brother His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, in Amman this morning. They discussed topics on the extraordinary Arab summit's agenda to coordinate stands that will result in positive and constructive resolutions in the service of the Arab nation's objectives, solidarity, and unity. They also discussed issues of common interest. [passage omitted]

Bahraini Amir Meets Barre

JN090913 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Amman, 9 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, met with Somalian President Mohamed Siad Barre in Amman this morning. They exchanged views on the agenda of the extraordinary Arab summit. They also discussed issues of concern to both countries as well Arab and African issues of common interest. [passage omitted]

Saddam Receives PLO's 'Arafat

JN090914 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Amman, 9 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has continued his meeting with the presidents, kings, amirs, and heads of Arab delegations participating in the emergency Arab summit within the framework of consultations on current Arab issues on the conference agenda. His excellency received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at his place of residence this morning. [passage omitted]

2d Closed Session Begins 9 Nov

JN090940 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0923 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Amman, 9 Nov (WAKH)—Their majesties, highnesses, and excellencies the leaders of the Arab countries resumed their extraordinary summit by holding a second closed session here today. The WAKH team in Amman learned that during this session, which is confined to the Arab leaders, the conferees are expected to form committees from the leaders of Arab countries to discuss three important basic issues, namely, the Iraq-Iran war, the Arab-Zionist conflict, and the Lebanese issue.

Four-Man Committee Formed

JN091122 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1106 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Amman, 9 Nov (INA)—The INA team has learned that the emergency Arab summit has formed a four-man committee comprising Jordan's King Husayn, UAE's Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, and Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah to hold contacts among Arab leaders to clear the Arab atmosphere. Conference sources told the INA team that this committee held two meetings yesterday and today to study its plan of action.

Bahraini Amir Meets Saudi Prince

JN090953 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0937 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Amman, 9 Nov (WAKH)—Their majesties, highnesses, and excellencies the leaders of the Arab countries continued their peripheral meetings in Amman today within the framework of consultations on the agenda of the extraordinary Arab summit which began yesterday. His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, received at his place of residence His Highnesss Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi deputy prime minister, head of the National Guard, and head of the Saudi delegation to the summit. They exchanged views on the summit's agenda as well as on issues of common concern.

Zayid Meets African Leaders

JN091049 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state, continued his contacts and consultations with his brother leaders of the Arab states and heads of the delegations participating in the extraordinary Arab summit curently being held in Amman. His highness this morning received His Excellency Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane, Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation and head of Mauritania's delegation to the conference. His highness the president also received His Excellency Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese State Council. During the meetings the officials reviewed the Arab issues raised at the summit as well as efforts to make the summit a success.

The two meetings were attended by His Highness Shaykh ibn Rashid ibn Ahmad al-Mu'allah, member of the Supreme Council and ruler of Umm al-Qaywyan; His Highness Shaykh Khalid ibn Saqr al-Qasimi, Ra's al-Khaymah heir apparent and deputy ruler; His Highness Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid Al Maktum, defense

minister; Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid; members of the UAE delegation; and the UAE ambassador in Amman. It was also attended by the Mauritanian and Sudanese delegations.

Qatari Amir Meets Saudi Prince

JN091055 Doha QNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Amman, 9 Nov (QNA)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, received at his place of residence in Amman today His Royal Highness Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister, head of the National Guard, and head of his country's delegation to the emergency Arab summit. They reviewed topics on the summit's agenda, developments in the Arab situation in general, and ways to safeguard pan-Arab security, to support collective Arab action, to make the extraordinary Amman summit a success, and to emerge with resolutions serving higher Arab interests. [passage omitted]

Qatari, Kuwaiti Amirs Confer

JN091100 Doha QNA in Arabic 1023 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Amman, 9 Nov (QNA)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, visited His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, at his place of residence in the Amman Plaza Hotel today within the framework of the consultations and contacts which Shaykh Khalifah is holding with the Arab leaders participating in the Arab summit conference. QNA learned that during the meeting the two leaders reviewed the overall issues to be discussed by the summit and new developments in the Arab arena, as well as ways to achieve unity, close Arab ranks, and reinforce pan-Arab security at this delicate stage. They also discussed bilateral and fraternal relations and ways to promote them in various fields. [passage omitted]

U.S., USSR Messages to Klibi

JN091127 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1117 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Amman, 9 Nov (WAKH)—Arab League sources in Amman said that Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has received messages from U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev on their countries' stands on the Iraq-Iran war. The U.S. and Soviet ambassadors in Amman conveyed the messages to Klibi during separate meetings today.

Al-'Attas Talks With 'Arafat

EA091140 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0555 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] On the sidelines of the Arab summit conference, Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, Political Bureau member and Supreme People's Council Presidium chairman, last night met Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman. They exchanged views on all issues under discussion at the emergency Arab summit, the main ones being the Arab-Israeli conflict and the international peace conference.

Amman Notes Klibi Contacts

JN091323 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi held contacts and consultations with a number of leaders, representatives, and foreign ministers attending the summit of reconciliation and agreement before it got under way yesterday.

Klibi met twice with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn of the Iraqi Republic. He also met with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic; His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait; PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat; Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mesteri, the leader of Tunisia's delegation to the summit; Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri; and Tariq 'Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The meetings focused on coordiinating Arab moves and reviewing topics on the agenda of the Arab summit.

Talks With Iran Considered

LD091348 Kuwait KUNA in English 1302 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Amman, Nov 9 (KUNA)—Consultations are currently underway among Arab leaders on a proposal to dispatch a delegation, headed by UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, to Tehran and hold talks with Iranian officials on putting an end to the Iraq-Iran war by implementing the U.N. Resolution 598, it was known here Monday. Efforts are being exerted to form this delegation so it comprises representatives of Syria and Libya. This issue is expected to develop in light of Syria and Libya's acceptance to participate in the delegation.

Crown Prince Meets UAE's Zayid

JN091409 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan this morning met with UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. They discussed subjects of common interest and the general Arab situation.

Salih Meets Saudi Crown Prince

JN091415 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has conferred with His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, Saudi Arabian

deputy prime minister, at the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman. On the Yemeni side the meeting was attended by Brothers Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and Standing Committee member; Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; Mujahid Abu Shawarib, deputy prime minister for domestic affairs; and Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for affairs of Yemeni unity and Standing Committee member; and the YAR ambassador in Amman.

On the Saudi side, the meeting was attended by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; Husayn al-Mansuri, minister of communications; 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Tuwayjiri, assistant deputy commander of the National Guard; and the Saudi ambassador to Jordan.

2d Closed Session Ends

JN091428 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Amman—Their majesties, excellencies, and highnesses the kings, presidents, amirs, and heads of the Arab delegations attending the extraordinary Arab summit, the summit of reconciliation and agreement, held a closed session in the Plaza Hotel at noon today under His Majesty King Husayn, the chairman of the conference. The session lasted 4 hours and was only attended by the heads of the delegations.

Saddam Husayn Speaks at Summit

JN091610 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1444 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Amman, 9 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has asserted that Iran's continued aggression against Iraq and its insistence on attacking Kuwait and what it did to undermine Saudi Arabia's security constitute the circumstances and reasons for the meeting of Arab leaders today. In his speech at the second closed session of the extraordinary Arab summit today, President Saddam Husayn said: In our assessment, the first step facing us now is how to correctly analyze the present situation and define what must be done. [Passage omitted reporting on the speech]

Following is the text of President Saddam Husayn's speech:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. "Indeed we hurl the truth against falsehood and it prevails over it, and behold, falsehood vanishes away." [Koranic verse] His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, conference chairman, Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses: Brother conferees, peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. Brothers, it pleases me to begin by extending great thanks and appreciation to our brother His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He gets the credit for convening this meeting. The active personal efforts made by our brother the king and his contacts with kings, presidents, and amirs have constructively contributed to paving the way for convening this meeting. I would also like to express my admiration and appreciation for the good organization of and preparation for the meeting. I would also like to express my great gratitude for the generous Arab hospitality provided by his majesty the king and his brothers in the government and the honorable Jordanian people from the time we arrived in dear Jordan.

Brothers, Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses, Conferees, we have waited many years to convene this meeting. Regardless of the difficult and critical circumstances that surround our meeting, I am confident that we are all satisfied that this meeting has convened. The need for a meeting of Arab leaders has been confirmed by the events of the past years. There are differences among us. Some of us hold views that differ from the views of some of the rest of us on such and such an issue. Many of us agree with their brothers on other issues. We must meet so our stands and actions on all levels become part of a fruitful, effective, and clear Arab effort. When we meet we must not fear our the differences, including differences of opinion. We must not always stipulate that such differences be solved before we meet. Our coming together is the best forum for tackling differences and bringing our stands closer to each other without denying the importance of bilateral meetings between heads of states whenever necessary.

Our coming together gives us the opportunity to have a comprehensive discussion and the opportunity to interact with each other. It also enables us to know at first hand the worries and experiences of some of us and thus everyone of us will benefit and gain from his brother. In my view, when we attend such meetings we must above all be anxious not to be introverted with our predetermined ideas and stands—ideas and stands that may stem from our own circumstances, experiences, and information. Rather we must be anxious to listen to each other with open minds and seek mutual interaction. We must also work sincerely and seriously to provide solid ground for common understanding and joint action.

We all may ask an important question on how to reach a consensus on the differences in our viewpoints and stands on this or that matter. To do so we have two options: The first is to freeze collective action and moves until we all reach agreement even on an acceptable minimum. This is good if achieved, as it means unity and strength. But while hoping to achieve this we must at the same time take into consideration our actual state of affairs. We are a number of countries, each with its concerns, problems, and circumstances, which are usually similar but sometimes different. In spite of our efforts and the interaction we seek to attain, we may not always succeed in agreeing on concepts or action on the problems we experience and the issues we discuss.

This may make us revolve in a vicious circle for years without being able to carry out any joint action and without having a plan of action to address our daily

concerns, developments, and numerous and momentous dangers. Thus, we miss opportunities and the dangers reach alarming proportions. If consensus is a sound state when attained—and is always desired—it may become in many instances an excuse to shirk responsibility and obligations. It also may become a form of tyranny allowing the minority to dominate the majority and obstruct decisionmaking and movement. From this premise, we only have the second option. This option consists of a line of action that the Arab League previously adopted and that was entrenched in the Arab League's traditions in the early stages of its establishment.

We must discuss matters seriously, seek to carry out interaction among us, approximate viewpoints, and bridge the gaps. If after doing all this and when the time of a decision comes, we find there is a majority that is convinced of this decision and is ready for it, then we make the decision and proceed to implement it without hesitation even if one or more parties do not agree on this decision. We decide and proceed forward with God's blessings while we continue to hold dialogue and to interact with the other brothers with the hope of attaining a consensus. However, consensus must not obstruct our decision and or impede our moves.

On this occasion, I would like also to highlight another requirement of joint action among us, that of the attendance of the decisionmakers at these meetings. We spoke about this point on the margin of the 1974 Rabat summit and in the previous Amman summit a resolution was adopted under which all Arab countries became duty-bound to have their representations at the level of head of state. If this cannot be done, then their respresentation should be at the level of deputy head of state or prime minister. This is to give summits prestige and the ability to make decisions. We hope that all parties abide by this not only out of respect for this esteemed institution but also out of a desire to achieve better understanding among us, closer interaction, and the ability to make needed decisions. When we look at other regional institutions in the world, we find that many leaders abide by this line of action and carry it out naturally and systematically. I believe we are as serious as they are.

One of the topics Iraq also wishes to discuss is the need to enhance the Arab League Council's role. The Arab League Council is the framework within which Arab countries have been meeting since the Arab League's establishment. The Arab League Council used to hold discussions and make resolutions. The circumstances of joint Arab action have brought about the formula of a summit meeting of the leaders of our countries. In our opinion, this is a very important formula, which must become a firm established fact and an annual event. However, this must not freeze the role of the Arab League Council and lessen its importance to the extent that minor and major problems will be referred to the summit meetings. If this takes place, we will find ourselves tackling a heavy agenda and we will not have the time to discuss all its items accurately.

The Arab League Council is the framework within which all matters must be discussed in detail and decisions made on issues by our representatives on the Council within the framework of their prerogatives. Issues that must be referred to the summit are those of special importance, requiring understanding and interaction among these countries' leaders and, from a constitutional and practical aspect, the attendance of the highest authorities who can make decisions.

Your Majesty the Chairman, Brothers, Iran's continuous aggression on Iraq, its insistence on attacking Kuwait, and its actions against the security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are the cause of the Arab leaders' meeting today. In our opinion, what we should do first is describe the current situation, analyze it correctly, and define our course of action. The Arab League was established on two main pillars: a) solidarity and joint action and interaction among Arab states as an expression of the Arab nation's hope for unity, and b) cooperation for better conditions and in confronting the dangers facing the Arab nation. Since the establishment of the Arab League, Israel has posed the main threat which the Arab League used many methods to face.

However, and based on reason and realism, the Arab League dealt with the Israeli danger not in terms of a certain aspect of it, but because it threatens Arab sovereignty, security, and rights. Naturally, we should deal with any danger, from whatever direction, in the same way if it threatens sovereignty, security, and rights.

Regardless of the nature of our relations with Iran, our view of it as a state, or our position toward its regime, and regardless of positions and information about past events—matters on which we might agree or disagree—what is certain now is that Iran has insisted on continuing war and aggression against an Arab country, namely, Iraq, for more than 7 years. Iran has been occupying part of Iraqi territory for years. It has refused a just, honorable, peaceful settlement preserving the sovereignty and dignity of both sides. Morevover, Iran has committed armed aggression against Kuwait and committed hostilities against a third country, Saudi Arabia. In addition, Iran has made threats and committed acts of blackmail, abuse, and sabotage against many states, both in the East and West.

These are the simplest facts and conclusions which we can draw and see before us today. This is a simple, realistic assessment of the situation. Indeed, the situation is much more dangerous than we have described, involving as it does Iran's actions and behavior in terms of its immense threat to the presence and future of the Arab nation's entity. This threat is as serious—if not more so in the long run—as the threats which the Arab

League dealt with on various levels and on which it adopted clear, powerful resolutions. What should we do to face this condition, this threat?

First of all I want to remind my brothers here that Iran's war agaisnt Iraq has entered its 8th year. Therefore, by raising this question now, Iraq does not intend to seek a particular position or action at this particular moment necessitated by technical needs or urgent requirements. Iraq has withstood the aggression for more than 7 years and is still fighting. It fought heroically and humiliated the aggressors who boasted about their huge numbers and indulged in their black dreams of occupying Iraq, humiliating the Arabs, and controlling their territory and sacred places.

Your Iraqi brothers heroically confronted the evil winds coming from Iran. In so doing, they represented the Arab nation's genuine traits of courage, pride, and worthiness. I am not the only one who describes the Iraqis as such. Similar praise has come from the sons of the Arab nation, both citizens and leaders.

During the past 7 years with their chapters of bloody and great sacrifices and immortal features, Iraqis, along with other good people, have moved to occupy their honorable positions in history, each in accordance with its abilities and circumstances. Some sides have watched events with folded arms. Others have allied themselves with the vile foreign aggressor. Even enemies before brothers and friends have admitted that Iraq continues to be steadfast, strong, and safe, God willing. It continues to be a pride and support not only for the Iraqis but for every zealous Arab.

Even though the war continues and the enemies increase their arrogance, grudge, and meanness, nothing can change our description of Iraq, as well as the fact that many people, even those who are far away from the scene of events, are aware that by its insistence on war and aggression Iran is harming itself, not us. It is knocking its head against an iron wall, which breaks the empty head and its horns without being moved. I wonder at this and I believe you also wonder. The fires of aggression, wickedness, and grudge have spread to other Arab countries. The Iranian aggression against other countries is no longer a conclusion or prediction, but is a fact represented by missiles fired at Kuwait, deliberate crimes in holy Mecca, and enemy Air Force raids on the interests of many Arab countries in the Arabian Gulf. There are other tangible examples in the region.

I wonder: How can the Arab situation be repaired when some sides are sitting back with folded arms and others are continuing to support the vile aggressors? Can we feel we are the sons of one nation? Even if we achieve a minimum degree of unity and act today or in the future to confront old or new dangers with enthusiasm, faith, and impartiality or express readiness to make sacrifices both in life and money, can we feel we are the sons of one nation at a time when some sides are allying themselves with the aggressors and when others are sitting back with folded arms?

Or should we take another position, in which the meaning of being part of one nation can be interpreted and in which the circumstances are favorable and the capability exists to confront this danger today or tomorrow when it expands and threatens other countries just as it is threatening Iraq? Can we confront an old danger that may erupt again today or tomorrow to threaten others, including those who are supporting the Iranian aggressors?

I will not answer this question alone. I tell you that these are the demands of Iraq. If Iraq emerges from this conference while the circumstances and stands remain the same, then Iraq will be able to continue its steadfastness with unyielding spirit and will bow only to Almight God. Iraq will be able to continue on the path that will make the aggressors understand that they will reap only shame and defeat from their aggression.

Iraq has given to the nation an example of preparedness for war, of tolerating war, and of mastering the arts of war over a number of years. This example is many times greater than that of the Arab nation in its battles against the Zionist enemy in modern times. The outcome of these battles is seen today in terms of continued occupation, revolving in vicious circles, and inability to confront both the aggression and the aggressors. Hence, what will the state of affairs be if there are dangers, posed by Iran or by other countries, to one or more Arab countries that lack the resources for steadfastness available to Iraq? What will the state of affairs be while some in the nation are spectators and while some parties extend their hands to the aggressor? How can we guarantee that the phenomenon of standing alongside a foreign aggressor, as in the case of the Iranian aggression, does not become a familiar event of which no one is ashamed and for which no one will be punished should other dangers and threats arise?

These questions, brothers, are posed to us now. All of us are asked, before ourselves and before the nation and history, to find answers that will satisfy both us and our nation so each of us will occupy his own poistion in history.

Your Majesty the King, chairman of the conference, Brothers, the Arab foreign ministers agreed in Tunis on 20 September that this meeting will be devoted to discussing the Iranian aggression against Iraq as well as against Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and the Iranian threats to security and stability in the Arabian Gulf. It seems, through the consultations that preceded this meeting, that a number of Arab countries expressed the desire to

discuss other topics. So, we asked our brother, His Majesty King Husayn, to write down an Iraqi proposal to discuss relations with Egypt at the head of the issues added to our agenda.

The current situation of Arab relations with Egypt was decided at the Baghdad summit and the subsequent Arab foreign ministers meeting in March 1979. Prior to this date, in December 1977, the Egyptian Government had decided, without justification, to sever its diplomatic relations with Iraq.

If we were to return to the time the Baghdad summit was held and review its circumstances and the dangers we faced, we will conclude with an easy conscience that topics at the summit and the decisions that were made stemmed from a national conscience. They also resulted from a sense of pan-Arab responsibility to stave off the dangers we faced and to tackle the existing conditions. We profoundly believe that the measures we adopted at the time were correct and necessary. However, all the stands and measures we adopted then due to the circumstances and reasons that existed at the time are still necessary. This is true because of the passage of time and the change of some circumstances. We are facing a changing and dynamic political situation and not an absolute situation that does not require change or motion.

Any fair person who argues from the premise of pan-Arab interests and objective assessment cannot deny or ignore the fact that very important changes have occurred in the Arab situation ever since 1978—changes in Egypt itself, in its stands and policies, and changes in Egypt's view of Arab relations and its conduct of these relations. Large and serious changes occurred in the Arab world and added new challenges no less serious than the previous and continuing challenges. The stand toward these changes is no less important and is not governed by a lower standard of national principles than the stand toward the other challenges and dangers.

Our call to study the question of relations with Egypt is not a choice that is free of these circumstances and does not stem from an abstract wish for the ideal. It is an attempt to find the best option among the available options on the road of strengthening the entire Arab situation—which includes Egypt. It is an attempt to do this, within the framework of serious and vital brotherly interaction, through both bilateral relations and collective relations on the basis of Arab League agreements and resolutions.

A study of relations with Egypt cannot, in the present Arab situation, be isolated from the comparisons between the stands we see adopted in the Arab world and the contradictions that exist in that same arena. The criteria that we set for Arab relations and obligations must be similar as long as the comparative criteria prevail and are actually in force. We call for discussing this matter in this meeting. We hope the discussion will be held in a constructive atmosphere stemming from a concern for the nation and its higher interests and an anxiousness to preserve the elements of good in the nation. We hope the discussion will be held in an atmosphere of justice and fairness so we can further the nation's strength and impregnability. When the discussion is held in such a manner we will put forward our ideas and suggestions sincerely and seriously while at the same time we will be prepared to respond to every sincere and sound view.

Let no one think Iraq is making such a proposal today because of the circumstances of the war. When we became convinced there were changes that required such a discussion within the framework of the circumstances and criteria to which we alluded, we said so frankly several years ago and we repeatedly declared it. We also voiced such a stand and discussed it with our brother Arab officials on every occasion. However, we believed that such an issue must be tackled by the institution that made the decision [of severing relations with Egypt], namely the Arab summit. The Arab summit is now meeting and it is time to discuss the matter. As for the war—and I remind you once again—it has continued for more than 7 years during which Iraq has passed the difficult test. As we have said, some have stood alongside Iraq and some have stood alongside the enemies. The Iraqis are capable of shouldering their responsibilities in all circumstances to please the good and annoy the enemy.

The Palestine cause, brothers, remains a top priority for us, no matter how numerous our concerns and the dangers threatening us. Our profound belief in the centrality of this cause finds expression in tangible and consistent practice. Perhaps our earnestness in approaching this and other issues is best judged by a compatibility of rhetoric and deed. I apply the same standards with the Palestinians as I do with other Arabs. Whenever we tackle a problem we try to be fair and thus our position is fair and credible. Forcing tutelage on others under all kinds of pretexts has over the years been proven harmful. We firmly believe that our support for whatever the PLO decides upon as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people bespeaks our high sense of principle and pan-Arab responsibility.

Just as each of us wants others to respect his decisions and opinions on matters of individual interest and allows no interference, we should respect the decisions and options of our Palestinian brethren. The fact that the PLO is not the government of a state should not affect this argument nor, for that matter, the pan-Arab character of the Palestinain cause and the universal nature of the Israeli threats to the Arabs. If we are to influence the decisions and options of this or that Arab party at all, our role should be one of advice and intellectual give and take rather than dictates to others. We believe that backing the PLO politically, materially, and otherwise soldifies it and enhances its ability to stand firm and to

pursue the struggle. The PLO will be further strengthened if we respect its independence and individual options, show interest in its unity, and cease all attempts to split its ranks. We support the PLO's options and decisions out of a deep appreciation for the patriotism and militancy of the Palestinian people and leaders. We go out of our way to see that relations between the PLO and all Arab countries are friendly and founded on mutual understanding, respect, and cooperation.

One of the most important relationships we must safeguard and nurture is the ties between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PLO. Our dear brethren must work out the proper formulas and frameworks for their joint action in an amiable atmosphere. This should not be too difficult to achieve, given the common bonds and shared destinies of the Jordanians and Palestinians. Our role is to help them relaize that end and subsequently bless the achievement.

Brothers, huge responsibilities are facing us in Lebanon. The past and present tragedies, ruin, and destruction in Lebanon pain every Arab and sadden every Arab home. What is more ominous is that Lebanon could be the model for other parts of the Arab homeland if the Lebanese situation and others are not dealt with. Silence on the Lebanese situation and toleration of Lebanese events not only show indifference, which contradicts our pan-Arab responsibilities and commitments and the close relationships that bind us to this part of the Arab nation, but also show a kind of self-deception and lack of readiness for impending dangers. Our interest in the Lebanese situation is an expression of our interest in pan-Arab security.

Regardless of difficulties and complications, we must help Lebanon overcome its predicament. We should never consider the Lebanese situation hopeless because this will make us face all problems and threats with frustration and despair. Our first act should be to lift the trusteeship over the Lebanese people, land, and leadership. Even if our Lebanese brothers seek our counsel and opinions and even if they demonstrate inability to agree among themselves at one time or another, we should not exercise trusteeship over them and control their fate. Those who did and are still doing this for what they considered tempting reasons should realize that they may face the same things the Lebanese people are facing now after having been an independent, unified state living in prosperity and pride.

We should respect the legitimate Lebanese constitutional bodies. We should help these bodies and encourage them to exercise their role and begin treating their wounds and tackling the grinding crises in Lebanon, especially the aggravating economic crisis. We must stop attempts to outmaneuver one another, using exploitative slogans, while Lebanon is constantly bleeding, while human dignity is violated, and while the country is being dismembered before our eyes.

We have before us a number of other issues that are no less important than the urgent and burning ones that we are confronting. We are dealing with these issues not only in terms of current circumstances but also future considerations and the nation's condition then. Thinking and planning for the future are not only good, but are also necessary concepts for survival in this fast-moving world. Standards are changing in the modern world and major powers and great resources are ruling it. We are no longer able to isolate our thoughts and conditions from those of the world. Even independence in this modern world is relative to a certain extent and can be strengthened by additional alternatives connected with the nature and challenges of the age.

We have long been wanting to present our thoughts in such a meeting, but we have refrained from talking about these thoughts openly since the Iranian aggression. We preferred to do so after the end of this aggression. We told ourselves: Our brothers might misunderstand us, thinking that we are presenting these ideas and thoughts because of our current circumstances and not because of deep conviction and adherence to these concepts. However, the aggression has taken a long time and the Arab situation forces us to discuss these concepts. Moreover, during the past years, we have deepened our understanding and interactions with many of our brothers and they now fully understand the motives behind our ideas and suggestions.

One of the most diffuclt problems that the Arab nation has been facing since the establishment of the Arab states in the contemporary world is the failure to define a sound basis for relations among them and the confusion resulting from the need for Arab unity, with its implied Arab interactions, and the requirements of sovereignty for each of the Arab states. This issue requires serious, deep discussion. But we first should eliminate a problem from which the Arabs have suffered—namely, the bane of interference in the affairs of others based on claims and illusions about populations, geographical areas, rifles, or other factors that tempt some to impose a trusteeship on others or interfere in their affairs. Without eliminating this problem, Arab conditions will not be rectified and suspicion, wariness, and doubt will prevent cooperation, interaction, and serious joint action.

We will all be great through our fraternity and respect for each other. We will be small and weak when we attack our brothers, belittle them, or exploit their difficult circumstances be they permanent or temporary. Concern for this principle does not mean lack of concern for the Arab situation outside our countries and direct constitutional responsibilities. Indeed, refraining from direct intervention is one of the serious examples of such sincere and constructive concern. Also among the examples and needs of such concern is our respect for each other's options while maintaining interaction, frankness, and free discussion. We should also demonstrate this concern while looking for experiences and ideas to

spread in a positive, brotherly, and democratic atmosphere. In this way, they will mature and so the factors of unity among our people will form naturally and freely.

Respect for these principles creates a healthy Arab climate of fraternity with no sensitivities, apprehensions, and fears. It opens the way for free interaction , true solidarity, and effective and constructive joint action.

Among the essential points to which we were alerted several years ago and which the 1980 Amman summit sought to tackle are the varying economic situations of Arab countries. Arab communities have on their own succeeded to a great extent in avoiding the class conflicts and wars from which other societies have suffered. That is a good achievement. However, we still have a state of vast differences among the countries of the Arab nation and that could create a kind of class conflict among these countries with the resulting imbalance in the requirements of national security. We profoundly believe that Arab solidarity will not be founded on stable bases and we will not be able to strengthen the pillars of national security unless we tackle a number of problems and among the most important of which is this problem.

If we were to review the way Western and communist countries behaved after World War II we will find that the programs for economic recovery were among the most important factors that laid down the foundations of the new postwar alliance among Western and communist countries and were one of the most important guarantees of their relations and their stability and security. Therefore, we cannot confront the serious challenges to national security without tackling this issue. The phenomenon of lining up with the enemy to which I referred when I was talking about the aggression to which we are subjected can appear in other forms and under other pretexts for many reasons, including this important one.

Brothers, we should seriously consider ways of development in cultural, scientific, and technological fields. Our society is suffering the legacy of centuries of backwardness. The entire Arab nation is threatened by backward currents, which are lost between Arab reality and prodigious progress in the world. As a result, these currents stagger in despair and panic because of the great hiatus. These currents take backward and sometimes violent forms. The Iranian phenomenon, in addition to its many aspects, is one that appeared in our surroundings and threatened us because of its nature, historical grudges, expansionist aims, and suspect connections. The Iranian and other experiments have shown that these backward phenomena are fertile soil for all sorts of diseases and a large field for the ploys of those enemies who aim at dismembering the Arab nation and preventing it from realizing strength and development.

Having the means of cultural, scientific, and technological development and closely connecting them with our religion, heritage, and history are among the basic tasks facing our states. Some may think this is the task of scientists and researchers, not the official duties of statesmen. In my opinion, the heads of state should first recognize the importance of these tasks, prepare the atmosphere conducive to their achievement, and provide the factors they require with diligence and deep awareness. Then scientists and researchers can paly their role after the basic guidelines have been drawn. This should be done within the framework of each state and in accordance with its own resources and circumstances. It should also be done within joint Arab action to realize greater benefits and ensure balanced pan-Arab security demands. We need to help each other and know one another's experiences.

In conclusion, I pray to Almighty God to grant us success for the good of our nation and to make our summit a success. The Arab nation is looking toward this gathering, expecting us to be on the level of our responsibility and the challenges and threats facing us. We earnestly hope that the results of our meeting will be acceptable to God and the nation. Pleasing to our brothers and friends and displeasing to our rapacious enemies. God is great, accursed be the lowly. May God's blessings and peace be upon you.

Saddam Husayn, Al-Asad Meet

LD091831 Kuwait KUNA in English 1554 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] Amman, Nov 9 (KUNA)—Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan announced Monday at a press conference here at the Royal Cultural Center that a meeting was held between Presidents Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad of Iraq and Syria respectively. Prince Hasan who heads Jordan's delegation to the emergency Arab summit currently held here added that "the meeting between the the Iraqi and the Syrian Presidents Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad has taken place on the sidelines of the meetings between Arab leaders."

He said, "Each one of them, following in the footsteps of other presidents, expressed his view taking into consideration the crucial matter at hand and its relationship with the Iraq-Iran war issue."

8 Leaders Attend Meeting

JN091739 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Amman—Tahir al-Masri, foreign minister and official spokesman for the extraordinary Arab summit, has said a meeting is now being held in the suite of His Majesty King Husayn, the summit chairman. The meeting is attended by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq; His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic; His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president; His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait; His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of

Algeria; His Excellency 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, YAR president; and His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister. The spokesman said the meeting was devoted to a discussion of the Iraq-Iran war, the situation in the Gulf, and relations between the two fraternal countries, Syria and Iraq.

The official spokesman added that their majesties, excellencies, and highnesses the kings, presidents, amirs, and heads of the Arab delegations attending the summit held their closed session this morning and that during this session, which lasted approximately 4 hours, talks dealt with the Iraq-Iran war, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the issue of Egypt's return to the Arab ranks, and the Lebanese issue. The official spoeksman said the Arab leaders made a point of submitting their viewpoints on all these issues in an open, brotherly frame of mind and that they discussed these issues in detail. The spokesman added that the Arab leaders also discussed all matters dealing with these issues. The official spokesman for the summit said the Arab leaders were to have begun their second closed session for today at 1900.

Al-Masri Holds News Conference

JN091949 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1802 GMT 9 Nov 87

[News conference held by Tahir al-Masri, Jordanian foreign minister and official spokesman of the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman on 9 November—recorded]

[Text] Good evening. It pleases me to meet with you today, the 2d day of the conference, to brief all of you on the discussions of the Arab leaders on the most important issues preoccupying all of us. Today's work began with a closed session which was attended only by the delegation heads. The session lasted over 3 hours. The meeting dealt with most of the major issues. They were discussed with a fraternal spirit in an atmosphere of frankness and amity. We ask God that this will be the beginning of a new phase of joint Arab action and that it will be a qualitative and distinguished step in dealing with and discussing such issues out of pan-Arab responsibility and a clear desire for meeting and agreement. The leaders were eager to present their ideas and opinions about these issues which were confined to the following:

1. The Iraq-Iran war: The Arab leaders discussed this issue in detail. Serious and detailed discussions were held on the latest developments in this regard. The debate included the results of the Iranian attacks and threats against the Gulf states.

2. The Arab leaders discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict and the latest developments in this regard. Attention was paid mainly to the efforts being exerted to convene an international conference.

4. [Number as heard] The delegation heads also discussed Egypt's return to the Arab ranks. A lengthy and objective discussion was held on this issue. The Lebanese issue was also discussed in an expanded manner. Some delegation heads expressed their views on this issue.

The delegation heads will resume their second [as heard] closed session at 1900 today to complete the debate on these issues. At this moment a meeting is being held at his majesty's suite. The meeting is attended by President Saddam Husayn, President Hafiz al-Asad, His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, President Chadli Bendjedid, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. This meeting is devoted to discussing the Iraq-Iran war, the situation in the Gulf, and Iraqi-Syrian relations. The date of the second [as heard] expanded closed session has not been set yet. This is all I have for you this evening. I am ready to answer questions.

[Unidentified reporter from Moroccan newspaper *Al-'Alam*] The issue of an international conference for peace in the Middle East is of concern to Jordan, the PLO, Syria, and Lebanon. Is there an attempt to coordinate the stands of Jordan and the PLO on this issue?

[Al-Masri] The issue of an international conference?

[*Al-'Alam* reporter] Yes.

[Al-Masri] There are no differences within the Arab side over the issue of an international conference. This is the easiest issue to discuss and agree upon at the summit.

[Unidentified reporter] Your Excellency the Minister: Are you optimistic after 2 days?

[Al-Masri] What I saw today makes me optimistic.

More on Al-Masri News Conference

LD092021 Kuwait KUNA in English 1755 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Amman, Nov 9 (KUNA)—Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, spokesman of the Arab summit, said Monday that a meeting is under way at the residence of King Husayn between the leaders of Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, the UAE, Algeria, North Yemen and Saudi Arabia. Al-Masri added that the meeting was intended to discuss the Iraq-Iran war, the situation in the Gulf, and the Iraq-Syrian relations. Al-Masri noted that the Arab mini-summit was attended by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Algerian leader Chadli Bendjedid, the UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan and Saudi Crown Prince and First Deputy Premier Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Commenting on today's closed-door summit Al-Masri said that the Arab leaders discussed the return of Egypt to the Arab rank as well as the Lebanese crisis and that the Arab leaders expressed their views on this issue. He did not elaborate. The Jordanian minister hoped that today's session would be the start of a new stage for the joint Arab work. In addition to the Iranian threats on the Arab Gulf countries, he said the leaders discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict and efforts being exerted to hold the international peace conference on the Middle East. The summit spokesman announced that the Arab leaders will hold a second closed-session later tonight to continue discussing pressing issues.

The spokesman said that the Libyan delegation to the summit took part in discussing the Iraq-Iran war noting that the closed-door meeting was confined to reviewing the opinions of Arab countries toward major issues. He added that today's session also tackled the joint Arab defense accord and that there is a semi-unanimous inclination on implementing the accord.

He referred to the presence of difference in views toward the return of Egypt to the Arab League indicating that a decision on this issue was not reached yet.

The Jordanian minister affirmed that there was no new development in the Palestinian-Syrian relations.

In reply to a question, the Jordanian minister denied the presence of an Egyptian delegation in Amman and said only the Egyptian ambassador is here.

Hasan Holds News Conference

JN092001 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Crown Prince Hasan has met with representatives of the world press, news agencies, and radio and television at the press center at the King Husayn Youth City today. The meeting lasted about 1 hour, during which his highness answered journalists' questions on the progress of the summit's work and the issues tackled by Arab leaders in their meetings. His highness said he believes that all Arab leaders participating in the Amman summit share the hope of emerging with positive results from the historic summit.

Prince Hasan said that in their second working session the Arab leaders continued their discussion of several important issues, namely the Iraq-Iran war, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Lebanese crisis. His highness said the three issues enjoy the special interest of the Arab leaders participating in the summit. He said the Arab leaders are determined to reach positive results on these issues and expressed the belief that the majority will agree on resolutions on issues to be discussed by the summit. Prince Hasan said His Majesty King Husayn is carrying out an important and prominent role in bringing views on the issues under discussion closer together. He noted that the failure to convene a summit meeting of Arab leaders for several years and the absence of personal contacts among Arab leaders in the past requires further discussion and consultations on the various issues under discussion.

Prince Hasan referred to the remarks by King Husayn at the summit's opening session yesterday on the Gulf war and its repercussions, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the convening of an international conference, and the situation in Lebanon. His highness asserted that despite the differing of views among Arab states on several issues, the Arab leaders are determined to preserve the Arab identity through the present summit, which he described as the Amman spirit, explaining that what is meant is that there is no room for failure in this summit, for the Arabs are fully aware of the national responsibility placed upon them in the present circumstances.

Referring to the Iraq-Iran war, his highness said: What is required of the summit is to agree on a regional formula or a regional agreement through which a united and effective Arab stand on the Iraq-Iran war will emerge and to support the intensive international efforts to end the war. He added: Resolution No 598 is the basis for ending the war. Prince Hasan continued: What is required is that all Arab and international efforts unite to implement the resolution.

Referring to Security Council Resolution No 598, Prince Hasan said: There is a strong feeling among member states that the implementation of the resolution will be a precedent, together with the unanimity of Security Council member states in agreeing on a formula similar to other resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict. The interpretation of Resolution No 598 in its final form is still the subject of disagreement between the two belligerents.

Prince Hasan added: In King Husayn's opening speech, you noticed that he referred to the two Muslim neighbors in the region and the feeling for the need to reach a regional agreement or formula that will restore to the region its stability and effective role in the international community. Asked about the Arab-Israeli conflict, his highness said: Jordan's stand in the Middle East crisis is based on Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 as a basis for resolving the crisis through an international conference attended by all the parties to the conflict and the five permanent member states of the Security Council.

Prince Hasan said: Many Arab states participating in the summit have in the past supported the idea of convening an international conference. He recalled that it is well known there was complete Arab unanimity on the ways to resolve the Middle East crisis at the Fes summit. Referring to the Lebanese crisis, Prince Hasan said: The Lebanese economic crisis and ways of supporting the Lebanese economy and the Lebanese people who have suffered a great deal were among the topics discussed by the Arab leaders.

Referring to the return of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Arab League, his highness declared: There are two things regarding that matter: first, Egypt's membership in the Arab League and the consequent military obligations in light of the Collective Arab Defense Pact and political and cultural commitments to which King Husayn referred in his speech yesterday. Second, the return of bilateral relations between Egypt and Arab states. He said that issue is being discussed by the Arab leaders regardless of the differences of view.

Prince Hasan said the recent actions by extremists whose timing coincided with the convening of the summit will not prevent the forces of moderation in the region from continuing tirelessly and ceaselessly to seek a just and comprehensive voice in the region.

Concluding his press conference, Crown Prince Hasan asserted that the comprehensive, frank, and responsible discussion in the lobbies of the summit—both in side meetings and in closed sessions—is proof that the Arab leaders are determined that this historic summit will be a turning point along the path of Arab solidarity and Arab order to achieve the ambitions of all Arabs and to achieve the hopes they had pinned on the conference.

At the end of Crown Prince Hasan's press conference, the representatives of the world press expressed their full satisfaction with the frankness and clarity that characterized his highness' address to them, an address that put them in the picture regarding the summit's work.

More on Hasan News Conference

JN092029 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Louis Faris dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Following the long closed session held by the Arab leaders in Amman today, Jordanian Crown Prince hasan held a news conference during which he spoke about the atmosphere and the current possibilities and answered questions. He said that the closed sessions have facilitated direct frank dialogue, thereby reflecting the character of the Amman conference, which is one of Arab accord. The crown prince added: The overwhelming dangers are numerous and the basic aim is to save Arab identity and existence.

Regarding the Gulf War, Prince Hasan said: The timing of the Iranian missile explosion in Baghdad with the opening of the summit is Iran's message to the summit. Ending the war is not one of the Iranian priorities. The prince noted that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statement on the Amman summit also coincides with the Iranian missile explosion in Baghdad. The same also can be said about the Abu Nidal group's operation, he added. The crown prince said: All extremists have one common objective, namely, fighting the moderates.

Prince Hasan said the three main issues under discussion are: the Gulf War, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and Lebanon, as well as other matters. Prince Hasan, who is known for his frankness, dropped a bombshell when he became more frank than usual and raised a number of questions concerning foreign military forces and the true American role in the Gulf. He wondered about the true objective of the continuous U.S. military buildup. He declared this has been a cause of anxiety for the Arabs, especially since Washington has gone too far in requesting facilities from countries of the area. He also wondered if there was international coordination in this respect. The crown prince emphasized the need to reduce foreign intervention in the affairs of the Gulf. He also voiced the idea that the international force in the Gulf should be under the UN flag and that there should be international guarantees, not those of a single state. The crown prince warned that what is happening in the Gulf might also happen in the Red Sea.

Asked about reiterated reports concerning a meeting between the Syrian and Iraqi presidents, the crown prince said: Both leaders are airing their views and opinions during the comprehensive closed sessions. From this aspect only it can be said that the meeting has taken place.

Regarding the possibilities of reconciliation, the crown prince said this intricate problem is being tackled in accordance with certain methods. He added that the lack of contact throughout these past years has deepened differences and diversified efforts. He affirmed that the present method will continue to be applied to overcome difficulties.

Regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict and the international peace conference, the Jordanian crown prince recalled the Arab peace plan that was approved at the Fes summit and emphasized that bases for just and comprehensive peace exist in UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338. Therefore, he said, any new move will definitely stem from these bases. At this point, Prince Hasan clearly referred to the need to also consider the Syrian position on this issue.

Asked about Egypt, Crown Prince Hasan said: The subject of Egypt is very much in our mind. There are two possibilities: The first is Egypt's return to the Arab League and the second, which is more plausible, is restoration of relations between Egypt and certain Arab states through bilateral arrangements as was the case between Jordan and Egypt.

Asked why 'Arafat's picture has not appeared on television and no attention was given to his activities, the crown prince said: Jordan is treating all delegations in the same manner as one would expect guests to be treated. The numerous meetings, contacts, and events have made it necessary to set a list of priorities. All

guests are being given the best treatment. The crown prince affirmed that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Concerning Lebanon, the Jordanian crown prince spoke about the gravity of this tragedy, saying that 95 percent of those killed are civilians, while only 5 percent of casualties were civilians in World War I. The crown prince announced that a special Arab fund will be set up to back the Lebanese pound to help the Lebanese people. However, he said, we must concentrate on the main issue, which is to achieve a final solution in Lebanon.

The crown prince said that Arab aid for the confrontation states is being given great attention. He said that a special committee was formed to study the financial conditions of Arab League organizations. The committee for backing the steadfastness of the inhabitants in the occupied territory is also alive and kicking, he said.

Hasan Conference Highlights

JN092205 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan said today that Arab leaders and heads of delegations taking part in the extraordinary Arab summit share the hope that the conference would come up with positive results. At a press conference held by his royal highness this evening at the information office at the Husayn Youth City, the crown prince said that in their second closed session, the Arab leaders resumed their discussions of several important issues, such as the Iraq-Iran war, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the crisis in Lebanon. He said that the three issues are given special attention by the leaders participating in the summit.

[Begin recording] [Prince Hasan] Meetings have been in session in one form or another almost continuously since the arrival of the heads of Arab delegations here in Amman. And I hope that this in itself will convey a sense of perseverance in addressing the key outstanding problems in the regional perspective, which as you well know—going back to his majesty's opening remarks and indeed his statement of yesterday during the opening session and thereafter—address the subject of the Gulf War in its broad perspective, the subject of the Arab-Israeli conflict and, indeed, the question of the international conference, and the question of the Lebanon, to name three outstanding issues. These and other issues, of course, are the subject of continuing discussion between the leaders.

[First unidentified reporter] Your Highness, yesterday we got the impression from the speeches of the king and other comments that the return of some form of ties with Egypt was a dominant theme. Could you take us through this a little bit and tell us where it stands today?

[Prince Hasan] Jordan, as you well know, resumed its diplomatic links and ties with Egypt some time ago and this step has been followed by other countries. So without commenting on which of the two options is likely to make further or faster progress, let me say that certainly the issue is very much on the minds of the participants in the conference regardless of their oppositions or views with or against such a move. It is too early to conjecture how this issue will emerge, but as I said, it certainly fits into the spectrum of discussions.

[Second unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] holding this extraordinary summit the issue was principally the Gulf War and ways in which such an Arab summit might be able to bring that war to an end. Without getting into the specifics as to how you might be working that particular problem, can you give us any sense of how you feel about the chances that this summit will actually produce something that might contribute to bringing that war to an end?

[Prince Hasan] I think that there is a very deep awareness of this fact among the participants in the conference that unless a regional will is expressed on one, two, or three of these issues, or indeed on a confluence of these issues, we may find ourselves in a situation where we are spoken for. And, with that observation, I refer specifically to the sizeable naval presence in the Gulf waters, which of course bears very little relevance to the justification for that presence, which as you may recall was the question of protection of material interests, starting with the reflagging of tankers. Some way down the line now we find that material interests, including installations in at least one Gulf Arab country, Kuwait, have been attacked and damaged.

The Mecca incident also with the involvement of Iranian pilgrims in the loss of life in the most sacred city to Muslims the world over was another prime concern of course in the minds of the foreign ministers during their meeting in Tunis. And these two considerations I think have gone a very long way in terms of the thinking of the conferees on two plains: one, on the level of United Nations Resolution 598 and the very strong feeling among many of the members—and I go back to confluence or interconnections between regional issues—there is a feeling that the implementation of 598 could well be a precedent, a healthy precedent, with the present unanimity of these five Security Council members for leading to a similar approach in terms of the other outstanding and historically older question, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the question of 242 and 338.

Of course, the recognition of the terminology of 598 in its final form is still a question of moot debate among the two belligerents themselves. But, as you noticed in his majesty's opening remarks, the reference was to two neighboring Muslim states in the region. And it is this feeling of trying to evolve a regional agreement, a regional face-saving formula, which has led to the second plane of discussion, which is on the Arab levels of

attempting to bring about a minimal Arab awareness of the need to conclude with some form of a statement that indicates clearly to the belligerents, and, indeed specifically to Tehran—and I say specifically to Tehran because we are after all today looking with sorrow yet again at the damage done by yet another Iranian missile attack on Baghdad, which almost seems to be a message to the conferees at this time and with this timing that resolutions of this nature, regional meetings as such of a political nature are not a priority to Iran. [sentence as heard]

This is a subject, I think, of deep concern to the summit leaders, to the Arab people, and adds to the sense of urgency that we all feel and we all share in arriving at this second plane of agreement. So I would say that in terms of regional face-saving, in terms of regional entente, there is a definite interest, shared interest, in scaling down the level and intensity not only of the regional conflict between the belligerents but also of the international involvement in the Gulf situation. There is also an interest and a priority shared by all in reminding the world that the Arab world in that Southwest Asian region is there and is an interrelated, interdependent reality. It is not the reality of a diminutive Gulf presence divorced from the rest of the Arab world or divorced from the Arab nation. We are happy to see that this conference is a conference where everyone has participated without exception and I am rather happy that, as I said, almost 72 hours later, if we take the earliest beginnings of this whole exercise, that we are still talking about these issues and thrashing them out with a great deal of seriousness. [end recording]

His royal highness asserted that the leaders are determined to reach positive resolutions concerning these three major issues, adding that His Majesty King Husayn is playing a prominent role in trying to bring the views closer to each other over the issues under discussion. Prince Hasan remarked that because Arab summits were not held for years, and due to the absence of personal contacts among Arab leaders in the previous period, intensive discussions and consultations on the issues are required at the extraordinary summit. His highness went on to say that despite the divergence of views among Arab countries over certain issues, Arab leaders are determined to protect the Arab identity through their summit in Amman.

On the Arab-Israeli conflict, his royal highness said Jordan's Middle East policy is based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for solution through an international peace conference. He also asserted that the crisis in Lebanon and ways of supporting the Lebanese economy came under discussion at the summit sessions.

Meeting of 8 Leaders Ends

JN092129 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] A meeting in His Majesty King Husayn's suite at the Plaza Hotel this evening to discuss the Iraq-Iran war, the situation in the Gulf, and relations between the two fraternal countries, Syria and Iraq, has concluded. The 4-hour meeting included His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, Kywaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, His Excellency Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, His Excellency YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister.

AFP on Syria-Iraq Reconciliation

NC100730 Paris AFP in English 2245 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Amman, Nov 9 (AFP)—The feuding presidents of Iraq and Syria, Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad, signaled their reconciliation here on Monday night with a public embrace, a delegate to the emergency Arab summit said. Mr. al-Asad embraced his Iraqi counterpart at the end of a dinner offered for the Arab leaders by Jordan's King Husayn, who has strenuously sought for more than a year to reconcile the two men.

Mr. al-Asad and Mr. Husayn head rival wings of the Ba'th Party. Relations between them were strained even before Baghdad broke diplomatic ties seven years ago over Syria's support for Iran in the Gulf war. The reconciliation followed a five-hour closed-door session of the summit and a later meeting grouping Mr. al-Asad, Mr. Husayn and six other Arab heads of state or delegation leaders. Observers and diplomats here had said a few hours earlier that a reconciliation between Syria and Iraq could be a major breakthrough in efforts to form a common Arab position on ending the seven-year-old Gulf war.

More on Al-Asad-Saddam Meeting

JN100641 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0515 GMT 10 Nov 87

[Text] The mini-meeting devoted to discussion of the Gulf war and Syrian-Iraqi relations lasted for about 5 hours and ended last night. I have learned from sources close to the conferees that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn delivered the speech he was planning to deliver at the opening session but then changed his plans [to deliver it at the opening session] at the Jordanian monarch's request.

President Hafiz al-Asad replied to every clause in President Saddam Husayn's speech in detail. He explained Syria's stands and how Damascus was the first to call for an end to the war since its eruption, stressing that this war does not and will not serve the interests of Iraq, Iran, or the Arab cause. President al-Asad said Syria has not acted as a spectator in the war, but attempted to stop it at a time when others merely looked on when Israel occupied Lebanon and struck at Beirut in 1982. The Syrian president stressed that Syria exerted great efforts

to prepare and work for the success of the Amman summit and that it is determined to bring about its success in the service of the supreme pan-Arab interest.

Our sources said there was no tension at all during the meeting. On the contrary, the Syrian and Iraqi presidents shook hands before and after the meeting. Our sources added that it was agreed to resume this discussion at an expanded meeting which the delegations will hold at 1100 today to continue discussing the basic issues.

Regarding the plenary meeting held by the heads of delegations yesterday morning, our sources said that during this 4-hour meeting the subject of Egypt's return [to the Arab fold] was raised on the grounds that Egypt is expressing its determination to adhere to the Arab League Charter and the Collective Arab Defense Pact. For more than 2 hours, President al-Asad spoke about the restrictions imposed by the Camp David accords on Egypt's commitment to the Arab League Charter and the Collective Arab Defense Pact. He said one can refer to the Camp David accords to ascertain this. He added that Syria came to the summit prompted by its duty toward the Arab nation and its responsibilities toward the battle of defending the nation's rights, including the right to liberate its territory.

The sources added that President al-Asad, who exerted great personal efforts to convene and crown the Amman summit with success, is also exerting great efforts to bring about this success and adopt resolutions that would guarantee channelling all Arab resources into the fateful battle and that would find just solutions.

Saddam, Al-Asad Reconciled

JN100719 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Nov 87 p 1

[Text] Amman—*Sawt al-Sha'b*—A reconciliation between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Iraqi President Sadddam Husayn materialized last night following the dinner banquet hosted by His Majesty King Husayn in honor of the Arab leaders participating in the Amman extraordinary summit.

This was confirmed to *Sawt al-Sha'b* by a responsible Jordanian source who considered the reconciliation as one that would open wide vistas for overcoming all Arab differences and healing rifts in the Arab situation—things which would help forge solidarity at the historic Amman summit. This historic reconciliation will help the Arab leaders resolve the problems they are tackling. His Majesty King Husayn had exerted strenuous efforts to approximate the views of the two sides during the meeting of the eight-man committee which was held yesterday afternoon.

Syria-Iraq Viewpoints Closer

JN100834 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Nov 87 p 1

[From the *Al-Dustur* team at the press center]

[Text] The eight-leader summit lasted 4 hours last night. Some Arab sources said that the meeting resulted in closing up the viewpoints of Presidents al-Asad and Saddam Husayn. They added that another meeting comprising the Iraqi and Syrian presidents may be held today. It has been learned that His Majesty King Husayn and the Arab leaders are giving priority to clearing the Syrian-Iraqi atmosphere even if the summit meetings continue for several more days.

'Aziz Says Iran Readying Attack

JN100759 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 10 Nov 87

[Text] Amman—Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has said that Iran is preparing to launch a new offensive against Iraq. Tariq 'Aziz told journalists that it is clear Iran is trying to launch a large-scale offensive. He added that this offensive is expected to be launched at any time. He went on to say that Iraq will continue to shell Iranian military and economic installations which support its war effort as long as Tehran refuses to abide by the UN Security Council cease-fire resolution. He said Iraq will not attack civilian targets. He added that the recent Iranian missile attacks on Baghdad sought to obstruct UN efforts to end the war.

AL-RA'Y Cites 'Aziz on Summit

JN101003 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Nov 87 p 22

[Text] Amman—*Al-Ra'y*—Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has paid tribute to King Husayn's wise leadership and his pan-Arab perspective which were clearly reflected in the workflow of the extraordinary Amman summit. He said his majesty's subtlety in dealing with issues raised at the summit is evident. This has given summitteers the opportunity for serious and in-depth discussions on all the issues being tackled at the summit. In an exclusive statement to *Al-Ra'y* yesterday evening, 'Aziz said Iraq is eager to make the summit a success and to enhance relations among fraternal Arabs without exception.

In reply to a question on the efforts to achieve a reconciliation between Presidents Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad, 'Aziz said: A meeting was held in the suite of His Majesty King Husayn between Presidents Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad in the presence of His Majesty King Husayn and a number of Arab leaders. I will be able to talk in detail on this issue after I get acquainted with the situation as assessed by his excellency the president in this regard. He added: In general, Iraq is committed to firm principles in its relations with fraternal Arabs

without exception on the basis of well-known pan-Arab basics which are the same basics that we have remained committed to within the framework of the Arab League.

'Aziz answered a question on the current situation in the Gulf in general saying: Agrression is being perpetrated against Iraq and the stand taken toward this aggression determines the nature of the relationship binding Iraq to this or that state. As long as the other states' stands are sound and based on clear pan-Arab pillars, these states' relations with Iraq are bound to be positive and good.

On the nature of the dialogue that took place among Arab leaders on Syrian-Iraqi relations and the Gulf war yesterday, Tariq 'Aziz affirmed: The dialogue which was held yesterday was a serious one and the seriousness of this dialogue constitutes an appropriate prelude to resolving all the issues being raised at the summit, especially the aggression against Iraq. 'Aziz added: Arab public opinion is following developments in the Gulf with concern and interest. He said this was manifested in a collective interest being displayed by the Arab leaders. It is clear that all parties are aware of the dangers and that the Arab situation is in dire need of a new concept or qualitative leap in inter-arab relations. 'Aziz said that the summit has been progressing satisfactorily so far. It is progressing in a manner satisfactory to Iraq. Although the summit is still in session and it is premature to talk about results, there are positive and satifactory signs.

'Aziz went on to say: The aggression against Iraq has been continuing for 7 years. Aggressions are also being perpetrated against Kuwait and some other Arab states, and this situation poses serious threats to pan-Arab security. There is also the conviction of a threat to world peace. This has been expressed in the Arab League's documents which were presented during the foreign ministers' meetings in April. These threats were also reflected in UN Security Council Resolutions 598 which asserted that the situation in the Gulf is a threat to peace. ' Aziz continued: Resolution 598 needs to be implemented. Iran has, for 3 months, been procrastinating, maneuvering, and playing with words. However, it recently revealed its intentions in the message it sent to the UN secretry general. These intentions are expansionist and hostile and contravene the letter of the UN Security Council resolution and international law. In view of this, the task that needs to be peformed right now is to expose the Iranian stand to remove any pretext precluding the issuance of a sanctions resolution against Iran. The UN Security Council resolution is binding. It states that the party which fails to implement Resolution 598 must be punished.

Concluding, Tariq 'Aziz answered a question about the threats that were issued by Tehran on the eve of the summit and on the simultaneous shelling of Baghdad saying: Iran will become fiercer and more hostile if the Amman summit conference comes out with positive results. However, he added: A unified Arab stand is the strongest deterrence to this aggression.

'Arafat Boycotts Dinner Banquet

JN100738 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0615 GMT 10 Nov 87

['Adil Malik dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Amman summit was about to be concluded without problems or sensitivities when PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat boycotted the dinner banquet King Husayn hosted last night in honor of the Arab leaders. 'Arafat refused to explain the reasons for this boycott, but some close sources, overtly or covertly, said this behavior reflected a desire to be given a larger degree of personal and pan-Arab tribute. However, this problem was contained through contacts which continued until the early hours of this morning. Yasir 'Arafat will in a few hours return to his seat at the summit to deliver his speech and follow up the summit proceedings for the sake of developing the positive points and dropping the negative aspects to attain some results.

Kuwaiti, Bahraini Amirs Confer

LD100859 Kuwait KUNA in English 0825 GMT 10 Nov 87

[Text] Amman, Nov 10 (KUNA)—H.H. the amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah received here Tuesday Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah. The discussions tackled issues tabled on the Arab summit agenda and ways to ensure the conference's success. A number of Kuwaiti and Bahraini officials attended the meeting.

Bendjedid Receives Jallud

LD100942 Algiers APS in Arabic 0840 GMT 10 Nov 87

[Text] Amman, 10 Nov (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN, received at his residence in Amman yesterday Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud. The meeting was attended by Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Politburo and foreign minister, and Larbi Belkheir, member of the Central Committee and director of the president's office, and on the Libyan side, by Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. In a statement to Algerian television, Maj Jallud said his talks with President Chadli Bendjedid dealt with reinforcing (?Arab) unity and coordinating efforts to ensure the success of the emergency Arab summit.

Summit Discusses Egypt's Return

LD101021 Kuwait KUNA in English 0913 GMT 10 Nov 87

[Text] Amman, Nov 10 (KUNA)—The Arab leaders resume sitting in-camera here Tuesday in one of their most important sessions that started here on Sunday. Reliable sources said that the heads of state will agree on a number of important topics that were deliberated in

last night's closed meeting including the Iraq-Iran war, Palestine cause and the return of Egypt to the Arab League. They added that the conference will continue meeting behind closed doors today and noted that lengthy debates are expected and hence the summit may not end today as scheduled but rather Wednesday morning. They told KUNA that last night's session witnessed exchanges on the Gulf war and reconciling Iraq and Syria.

They underscored that a reconciliation committee, for this purpose, was formed out of leaders of Kuwait, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, Jordan King Husayn, Algeria Chadli Bendjedid, Arab Yemen Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, United Arab Emirates Shaykh Zayid Ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

KUNA learnt here, meanwhile, that a third meeting grouping Iraqi President Saddam Husayn with his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad will be held today within the committee's efforts to restore normal relations between them and crystallize a joint approach to the Iraq-Iran war. The meeting is expected to take place on sidelines of the closed session.

The sources told KUNA that yesterday's sessions progressed amid an atmosphere of satisfaction and pointed out that three formulas are being deliberated on the return of Egypt to the Arab fold. The first calls for postponing the issue to an ordinary Arab summit, the second insists on a resolution in the current extraordinary summit, while the third calls for leaving the issue to be decided by each Arab country. The third option is the most acceptable, so far.

Meantime, behind the scenes reports indicate that the Arab leaders have assigned their aides to discuss financial support to the confrontation states with the Israeli enemy along with the Arab League and its subordinate agencies' financial crises.

3d Working Session Begins

JN101025 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Nov 87

[Text] The summit of harmony and accord continued for the third consecutive day in a positive atmosphere permeated by the spirit of Arab Amman and eagerness to preserve the supreme Arab interests. The Arab leaders began their third working session at noon today to complete their discussion of fateful Arab issues.

In a related development, the summit drafting committee began meeting at the Plaza Hotel at noon today to prepare the summit draft resolutions ready for submitting them to the Arab leaders. The committee which was formed on the foreign ministers level comprises the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the UAE, the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Iraq, the PLO, the State of Kuwait, the YAR, and the Arab League General Secretariat.

Husayn Meets 'Arafat, Others

JN101102 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Nov 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, chairman of the summit of harmony and accord, today continued his meetings with his brothers the Arab leaders. His majesty the king met at his place of residence this morning with His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, in the presence of a number of Bahraini delegation members. The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by the prime minister, the Royal Hashemite Court chief, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and the foreign minister. His Majesty the king also met with His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad al Thani, amir of Qatar.

His Majesty King Husayn also met with Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, in the presence of PDRY Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali. The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by the Royal Hashemite Court chief and the foreign minister.

His Majesty King Husayn also received at his place of residence this morning PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the Royal Hashemite Court chief, the court minister, the chief chamberlain, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and the foreign minister. The meeting was also attended by the head of the PLO Political Department and the PLO representative in Amman.

Summit May End 'This Evening'

JN101109 Doha QNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 10 Nov 87

[Text] Amman, 10 Nov (QNA)—It has been learned here that the extraordinary Arab summit might conclude this evening in light of the positive results achieved so far, especially during the eight-man mini-summit which was held yesterday. Informed sources in Amman asserted that the results of the Arab summit deliberations regarding a Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation are encouraging. In a statement to QNA, these sources said that the success of the eight-man mini-summit, which was held yesterday and during which emphasis was laid on this reconciliation, will facilitate the work of the Arab summit regarding the Iraq-Iran war and other pressing issues.

Syrian Statement on Egypt

JN101202 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Nov 87

[Radio team dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The official spokesman of the Syrian Arab delegation to the extraordinary Amman summit has made the following statement: Egypt's Arab League membership was suspended at the Baghdad summit conference for objective reasons related to the commitments Egypt had taken upon itself in accordance with the Camp David accords. At that time neither an Israeli flag nor an Israeli Embassy existed in Cairo.

The Camp David accords prevent Egypt from abiding by the Collective Arab Defense Pact and the Arab League Charter, according to a written commitment in this regard. They also give priority to Egypt's commitment toward Israel over any other commitment. What has changed so that the Arabs can change their stand toward the Camp David accords and those committed to them? Is it possible to discuss the subject of Egypt's return to the Arab League now that the Israeli flag is fluttering in Cairo and the Israeli Embassy is in the center of Cairo? Can a few words about commitment to Arab solidarity cancel the written commitments the rulers of Egypt have made toward Israel and the United States?

The matter was not one related to the person of Al-Sadat, but to written accords which still exist and which still bind the Egyptian Government. Any attempt at the summit conference to end the freeze on Egypt's Arab League membership will do away with any positive results that may be reached by the conference.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Cables Gorbachev on Soviet Anniversary

JN082013 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Nov 87

["Text" of a congratulatory cable from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev on the 70th anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution; date not given]

[Text] On the occasion of the friendly Soviet people's celebration of their national day, I am pleased to convey to you, and through you to your respectable government, your militant party, and your friendly people, the best comradely greetings and sincerest heartfelt wishes in the name of our Palestinian Arab people, in the name of my brothers of the PLO Executive Committee, and in my own name.

Your friendly Soviet people's celebration of their national day affords a new opportunity to recall the heroic, revolutionary struggle led by the great revolutionary Lenin, which culminated in the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. This occasion is also an opportunity to assess the economic, social, and scientific achievements realized by the friendly Soviet people, led by their struggling party, and to reassert the resolve to continue along the road of scientific socialism under your wise and courageous leadership.

I take this opportunity to express, dear comrade, general secretary, our deep pride in the comradeship binding our two friendly peoples and your esteemed government and the PLO. I reiterate our interest in strengthening these ties in the interest of our two peoples' common goals. At the same time, I would like to express our profound appreciation for the constant and principled support of the Soviet leaders, government, and people for our just Palestinian cause and for the legitimate struggle of our people to liberate their occupied land and regain their inalienable national rights, including the right to repatriation, self-determination, and an independent state on their national soil.

In conclusion, I repeat our comradely congratulations and send you the warmest, heartfelt greetings. I wish you health, happiness, continued success, and good luck in leading your struggling party and friendly people to attain their lofty goals of affluence and prosperity. My best regards to the friend of our Palestinian people and all the peoples striving for their liberty and independence.

Revolution until victory!

Fatah Military Delegation Returns From GDR

JN082022 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1812 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], Fatah Central Committee member and deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, and his accompanying military delegation have concluded an official visit to the GDR. This visit came in response to an official invitation by the GDR defense minister.

Brother Abu Jihad held a final round of talks with the GDR defense minister at the Defense Ministry yesterday. During these talks, the two sides conducted a general review of the current PLO political and military situation. They also reviewed the latest developments in the occupied homeland, in the Lebanese camps, as well as the general situation of the Palestinian forces on various levels. The GDR defense minister expressed his country's continued solidarity with the Palestinian people's struggle for their legitimate national rights, including their right to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. He also expressed the GDR's readiness to provide all possible backing on various levels to the Palestinian national struggle until the day of victory. [passage omitted]

Israeli Patrol Reportedly Attacked Near Ramallah
JN081951 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1812 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Communique issued by the military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] Our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied territories have used incendiary grenades to attack a Zionist military patrol as it was passing near the city of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank. After successfully carrying out their operation, our revolutionaries returned safely to base. The attack resulted in a direct hit against the patrol, killing and wounding a number of the Zionist enemy's personnel.

The Zionist enemy radio admitted the operation, but claimed that only two Zionist soldiers had been wounded. It added that its forces had launched a large-scale combing operation of the region, evicted the occupants of some Palestinian houses, and arrested a large number of Palestinian citizens on the pretext that they were associated with the operation.

Revolution until victory!

Egypt

Mubarak Greets Soviet Leaders on Revolution

NC061404 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent a cable of greetings to Soviet leaders on the anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. Here is the text of the cable:

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; His Excellency Mr Andrey Gromyko, chairman of USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium: I have the pleasure to send heartfelt greetings to you and to the Soviet people on the anniversary of the October Revolution, and wish you success in your efforts to consolidate world peace and to achieve further progress and prosperity for the Soviet people.

I take the opportunity to express confidence that the good relations linking our countries will continue and flourish to the benefit of both countries and to serve the issues of international peace and security. With my highest esteem and appreciation.

Sidqi, 'Abd al-Majid Cable Tunisian Counterparts

NC071938 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 7 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has sent a cable to new Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, congratulating him on his new post and expressing hope that he will succeed in shouldering his great responsibilities for the good of Tunisia. Here is the text of the cable:

Mr Hedi Baccouche, new Prime Minister of the Republic of Tunisia. As you take over as Tunisia's prime minister, it is my pleasure to extend to your excellency my profound congratulations, praying that God will grant you success in bearing your great responsibilities for the fraternal Tunisian people's good, prosperity, and progress and for our Arab nation's glory and solidarity.

Meanwhile, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, addressed the following congratulatory cable to Mohamed Mestiri, the new Tunisian minister of foreign affairs, on the assumption of his new post:

As you assume the responsibilities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in fraternal Tunisia, I am pleased to extend to you my profound congratulations and sincere wishes for health, happiness, and success. I pray that God will guide your steps and help you to succeed in the service of the fraternal Tunisian people at this crucial stage of history. I hope God, the Almighty, will help us to achieve solidarity and harmony for the glory of our Arab nation and for the achievement of our common hopes of well-being, progress, and peace.

Mubarak Discusses Arab Summit, Arms Production

NC091340 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has expressed his pleasure at the convocation of the Arab summit and hopes it will narrow the gap of differences and problems between Arab countries.

During a tour of the Cairo Defense Equipment Exhibition today, the president responded to a foreign reporter's question on Egypt's military and political role in the Arab world and his expectations for the summit. The president said that the speech given by the minister of state for defense and war production [Jamal al-Sayyid Ibrahim] at the opening of the exhibition has underlined the status occupied by Egypt as a major state in the Arab region.

The president said: I am very pleased at the convocation of this summit, which has not been held since 1984. It was scheduled for convocation last year, he added, but differences among Arab countries prevented it. I believe this summit should be held at least every 6 months. I am pleased at its convocation and I hope that it will manage to narrow the gap of differences between Arab countries, for this is the key to resolving all the issues of the Arab region.

The president was asked about what we should aspire to achieve in the field of war production. He replied: I like to be ambitious and to aspire for achieving what the world has achieved. However, every country has its own financial and other resources, in addition to marketing potentials. Yet, we should at least strive to approach self-sufficiency. No country in the world can achieve complete self-sufficiency. Even the superpowers import many things, including components for military equipment. Still, it would please every Egyptian and Arab citizen to have a well-established industrial base.

Responding to a question on how he, as the head of the largest Arab state, feels toward Egyptian arms production, he said that in Egypt this kind of production has taken a giant step forward during the last 3 years. He said: We now manufacture radar systems at the Banha factory. He noted that arms production represents the peak of industry because the manufacture of a very accurate piece of equipment, for military strikes and other operations, requires precision in the handling of various components.

The president was asked about his expectations for arms production development and its impact on civil industries. He said that arms production, in many ways, serves civil industries. He illustrated this by noting the fact that diesel engines, pumps, and desalination plants are being manufactured by the arms production sector. He added that many components used for civil industries are also manufactured in military factories. This helps to increase domestic production and resources available to the public, he remarked.

President Mubarak was asked whether Egyptian military production has managed to achieve a minimum level of Arab national security. He said: Having seen the display of military equipment, which is 100 percent Egyptian, I believe that you can appreciate the extent to which we have ensured Arab national security.

Libyan Opposition Front Appeals to Arab Summit

NC071705 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 7 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—The National Front for the Salvation of Libya has called on the Arab kings and presidents meeting at the emergency Arab summit in Amman tomorrow to address the issue of the Libyan people, in all its political and humanitarian aspects, within their historic responsibility. In a message addressed to the Arab leaders, the Front said that the Libyan people are seeking a long-awaited Arab stand on their national issue, a stand of support and help. It added that the Libyans have always taken such a stand with their brothers and the Arab nation.

The message, which was addressed to the Arab leaders by Front leader Dr Muhammad Yusuf al-Muqaryif, stressed that the absence of a deterrent Arab conscience has only made Colonel al-Qadhdhafi more scornful and tyrannical, domestically and abroad. Inside the country, Al-Qadhdhafi has suppressed the Libyan people, subjecting them to his sick, tyrannical, and anarchic whims. Abroad, he has ignited the fires of war with Chad. The message stressed that it is not in anyone's interest to turn the Libyan-Chadian dispute into an Arab-Chadian dispute and then gradually into an African one.

The message reviewed the crimes perpetrated by Al-Qadhdhafi at the Libyan and Arab levels. It stated that not one Arab country has escaped Al-Qadhdhafi's plots, nor has one Arab leader escaped his abuse, recklessness, and violence. It cited in this regard Al-Qadhdhafi's alliance with Iran in its war against Iraq.

The message declared: The Libyan people are experiencing what can be termed a catastrophe. Chaos, crime, corruption, and desolation now pervade all aspects of the Libyan people's life. The message reiterated the Front's appeal to the Arab leaders to act to save the Libyan people, support their struggle, and help ease their tribulation. It stressed that this is the least they can do in accordance with the spirit of solidarity and the sense of honor which characterize the Arab nation.

Ghali Cites PRC Denial of Arms to Iran

NC090811 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that the PRC has categorically denied providing Iran with arms and missiles.

He said that PRC President Li Xiannian has informed him, during his recent visit to Beijing, that the U.S. is attempting to place the blame on the PRC and accuse it of supplying Iran with arms and missiles in a bid to divert world and Arab public opinion from the political blow the United States has suffered as a result of the scandal of the U.S. arms sale to Iran.

In a statement to *Al-Akhbar* today, Ghali said that the PRC has stressed its neutrality on the Gulf War and that it has constantly exerted efforts to end the war as soon as possible. The PRC, he affirmed, calls for resolving the conflict through negotiations, is opposed to the tankers war, calls for respect of freedom of international navigation in the Gulf, and stresses the need to safeguard the Gulf countries' security.

UN Envoy Advocates End to Intervention in DRA

NC100934 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 10 Nov 87

[Text] United Nations, 10 Nov (MENA)—The Arab Republic of Egypt has urged that the sorrowful situation in Afghanistan be ended. It also called for the withdrawal of foreign forces from that country, an end to foreign military intervention, and respect of its territorial integrity and independence. Egypt also urged responsiveness to the UN secretary general's efforts to attain a settlement of this issue.

This came in a speech which Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, the permanent Egyptian delegate to the United Nations, made early this morning during a discussion on the Afghan question. The delegate expressed Egypt's belief that all countries, organizations, and international and regional bodies can play a vital role in settling this issue.

Ambassador Badawi explained Egypt's constant and definite position on the Afghan issue which stems from a number of principles, foremost among which, are the need for all international forces to respect the UN Charter, to renunciate the use of force or the threat of force in international relations, and to respect the Afghan people's right to choose their own course and form of government without any foreign intervention, or acts of violence and destruction.

Request To Pressure PLO on Israel Rejected

NC071539 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 7 Nov 87

[Text] Riyadh, 7 Nov (MENA)—The Saudi newspaper *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* today cites informed sources in Cairo as saying that Egypt has rejected a U.S. suggestion that Egypt should exert pressure on the PLO to issue a statement recognizing Israel's right to exist in return for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's acceptance of the proposal to hold an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

These sources told the newspaper that Egypt explained that it cannot exert pressure on the PLO or on any other party and that it will not seek to impose on any of the parties concerned with the Middle East conflict a formula for a solution with which they do not agree. Egypt also stressed to the U.S. Administration that an international peace conference, which enjoys collective world support, must be held in order to give an impetus to peace efforts in the Middle East. It emphasized that Israel must abide by the Alexandria statement issued in September 1986 during the visit by Shim'on Peres, the then prime minister of Israel and its present foreign minister, to Egypt.

AL-AHRAM Views Syrian Cabinet Reshuffle

NC070850 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2305 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—In its edition appearing tomorrow, Saturday, *Al-Ahram* says that the resignation of 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm's cabinet in Syria did not take place in a vacuum, but is indicative of the crushing economic crisis felt by all Syrians, as well as the troubles of the Syrian regime.

The whole world knows, the paper states, that the agriculture minister resigned after admitting to having accepted a bribe. The minister of construction resigned over the failure of his projects. And the minister of industry had to quit after exceeding the budget's limits. These were some, but not all, of the causes for the resignation of Al-Kasm's government. The average Syrian has long complained of the shortages and high prices of essential goods. Scandals involving officials, along with their relatives and cronies, have become a daily occurrence and a source of pain to the average Syrian, the paper maintains.

Al-Ahram notes that Al-Kasm's government hung on to power for too long, despite the pressures against it. It fought hard to conceal its corruption, the paper states, but a succession of massive scandals and resignations unhinged the government in the end. The problem in Syria was not only that the country was in severe economic trouble, but that the authorities were unable to tackle the situation and did not admit the facts until the pressure became overwhelming.

The Syrian regime, *Al-Ahram* says, is not just having trouble. It is showing the same age-old symptoms of despotism which appear whenever rulers choose to govern in isolation from their people. Such regimes never last forever, the paper says, because the masses are capable of differentiating between lies and cosmetic cabinet changes on the one hand, and the truth which they live, on the other.

Muslim Brotherhood Head Assesses Mubarak Speech

PM091235 Cairo AL-SH'AB in Arabic 27 Oct 87 p 3

[Article by Muhammad Hamid Abu al-Nasr, Muslim Brotherhood general guide: "The Muslim Brotherhood and Mubarak's Speech"]

[Excerpts] I followed President Husni Mubarak's speech to the people's representatives under the dome of the People's Assembly with keen interest. He clarified his policy in his second presidential term.

It is only fair to welcome the new spirit which pervaded the president's speech and which emphasized his desire for all forces and efforts to cooperate loyally, with sincere intentions and true purpose, in order to achieve a great revival throughout Egypt. We also welcome his excellency's conviction that this construction could only take place if we were all to rise up with one unified will.

We appreciate these words of the president: "And I also say yes to those who said no." "Power to everyone and the opposition is an inseparable part of the power structure." "My hand is outstretched to every Egyptian man and woman in all walks of life and in all parties". [passage omitted]

There ought to be an atmosphere in which the citizen's freedoms, his security, dignity, and honor are provided for, which generates confidence between him and the government in power. Also, there should be a rebuilding of good citizens, who will construct the homeland. This should be carried out on the basis of religion, higher values, and ideals. And all positions of influence and guidance should be used so that in schools, universities, in the media, and elsewhere negative aspects will disappear and positive aspects will appear. Religion encourages work and its proficiency, it promotes altruism and the safeguarding of public wealth, it promotes patriotism and cooperation on the basis of charity and piety, and it combats everything objectionable and harmful.

In his speech President Mubarak called on the People's Assembly to completely revise the laws so that they comply with the clauses of the Constitution; in other words, with the clause of Article 2 of the Constitution, which stipulates that the Islamic Shari'ah is the principal source of legislation.

We are not content solely with clauses. Rather, we would like the esteemed Islamic Shari'ah to be implemented since we really do want the great revival to which the president aspires. [passage omitted]

Concerning the atmosphere of freedom in which good citizens are brought up, we urge that the exceptional laws which constrain freedom—especially the emergency law—be abolished so that people can proceed with building peace, unfearful of indiscriminate arrests that are backed by an emergency law which supersedes the judicial laws and is not bound by them.

The president's words that the citizen, who is protected by the law in a democratic state, devotes himself to protecting the law against the enemies of the law and

freedom, are correct with regard to laws which protect the citizen's freedom, security, and freedom from oppression. However, it does not apply to the laws constraining civil liberties.

There is no doubt that democracy has been blatantly violated in the past by some government organs. The Constitution guarantees freedom of opinion, freedom of the press, and freedom of private and public assembly—within the bounds of the law—in compliance with Articles 47, 48, and 54 respectively. The emergency law has been used against all these rights, and individuals, groups, and parties have been equally deprived of them. [passage omitted]

As for foreign policy, it is fair to conclude that at the Arab level, Egypt's foreign policy under President Husni Mubarak has advanced more than previously. It strives for the interests of the country and raises itself above abuse and petty bickering. However, it is also our duty to conclude that the most important matter preoccupying every Egyptian is the Palestinian cause. The oppression and maltreatment of the Palestinians in the occupied teritories, the attempts to destroy the Al-Aqsa mosque by the excavations around it, and the violation of its sanctity by the Zionists praying in it greatly distresses them. So we hope that the Egyptian Government will take a serious stand to prevent this.

Egypt's fraternal relations with Sudan are eternal and everlasting and are at the forefront of Egypt's relations with Islamic, Arab, and African states and nations. They are most important and crucial. Unfortunately, the president's speech has not accorded them any consideration or mention, which is striking.

The president of the Republic's speech was also devoid of any mention of another vital and important issue—that of the fighting, heroic, Muslim people of Afghanistan who are resisting with all their resources the repugnant communist colonialism. It was hoped that the president would reassert Egypt's complete support for the Afghan people, its stand alongside them in their historic tribulation. It was hoped that he would strongly condemn the tyrannical oppression which has befallen the Afghans and insist on the withdrawal of Soviet forces from fraternal Muslim Afghanistan.

As for Egypt's relations with the rest of the Islamic states, especially with the ICO states, only passing reference was made to these in the president's speech. Considering that Egypt is in the forefront of the Islamic world states, that it has its leadership and pioneering role, and that it has returned to occupy an eminent position among the ICO states, it would have been more appropriate to emphasize this ideological and deep-rooted tie and its importance.

Lastly, we stretch out our hand to participate in every work of construction or revival based on God's Shari'ah, and we wish for our country security, stability, and prosperity.

Tunisia

New President Addresses National Assembly

LD081116 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Excerpts] The Tunisian people welcomed with great satisfaction the change that took place yesterday in the highest rank of the Tunisian state in an atmosphere of calm and tranquility. Yesterday was a day of joy and happiness for the people as they listened to the statement of His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and to his taking the constitutional oath under Article 42 of the Constitution. [passage omitted] Following the swearing-in ceremony and a statement to the members of the National Assembly, the president of the Assembly repeated the Assembly's congratulations and its good wishes to the new president of the Republic, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, for success in all that promotes Tunisia's progress and strength and the progress of the Tunisian people.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali accepted the greetings of the president of the Assembly, the members of the government, and the people's representatives. On leaving the Bardo Palace he saluted the cherished flag and reviewed an Army formation which saluted him. [passage omitted]

Opposition Leader Favors New Government

LD091535 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Tunisia is still in the headlines 2 days after the constitutional coup d'etat carried out by General Ben Ali. [passage omitted] We add to all the reactions that of Ahmed Mestiri, secretary general of the Social Democrats. As you will hear, the leader of the main opposition party in Tunisia speaks in favor of the new president.

[Begin recording] [Mestiri] We welcome with satisfaction the quite encouraging statements of his official declaration, which essentially state what we fought for for years. Basically, they are the multiparty system, the adoption of a law on the status of parties, a review of the Constitution, and above all, returning to the Tunisian people their say in the country's affairs because they are a mature people. Elections have to be organized sooner or later.

[Announcer] You talk about a national consensus in Tunisia. Is a consensus with the fundamentalists possible?

[Mestiri] Why not, if they accept the rules of the democratic game? There is no reason for isolating them. [end recording]

Provincial Organizations Support Ben Ali
LD071754 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 7 Nov 87

[Text] Here is a report on reaction from the provinces after Zine El Abidine Ben Ali became president of the Republic.

Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's assumption of the Presidency has echoed widely among various popular circles in Tawzar, which have expressed their total support for this historic and great event.

In this framework, Tawzar Governor (?Ahmed Rida Wajah) received members of the coordination committee; members of regional branches of national youth and women's organizations; and mayors headed by (?Sa'id al-Hirshani), secretary general of the coordination committee. On behalf of these delegations, he expressed total and unconditional support for, and complete correlation with, the historic statement made this morning by His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The happiness of the citizens and cadres of Al Qayrawan Province at Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's assumption to the Presidency has evolved into feelings of satisfaction that prevail in the towns and villages of the area. A number of citizens have cabled these feelings to provincial headquarters.

In this connection, the Al Qayrawan governor received this morning a delegation of Destourian groups and representatives of national organizations, intellectuals, doctors, and lawyers.

Abdelwahab al-Kharrat, secretary general of the party coordination committee, told the governor of the delegation's deep satisfaction and great joy at this new page in Tunisian life.

A feeling of satisfaction and reassurance prevailed among the cadres, militants, representatives of the national organizations, and the basic cadres in areas of Al Munastir Province following the statement by His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, in which he took over the post of president and the supreme command of the national Army in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. This historic decision was received with feelings of delight and enthusiasm, as indicated by numerous delegations representing national cadres, organizations, and party groups, as well as a number of citizens, who contacted at provincial headquarters Mohamed Ben Nasr, governor of Al Munastir Province. The delegations conveyed their feelings and told him of their readiness to embark on earnest work and to give generously in order to realize the ambitious, progressive objectives contained in the statement by his excellency the president of the Republic.

With joy and delight the masses of Al Qasrayn Province, since early this morning, have been following the statement made by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. They are all happy at the advent of a new era in the nation and hope that it will augur well, as well as signal good fortune and a blessing for the entire nation. In this atmosphere of happiness, pleasure, and complete awareness, the various factions of young and old in the province have a sense of responsibility. They are hopeful and optimistic that Tunisia will have a prosperous future under an aegis of strength and stability so that it may forge its way forward in security and safety, thereby realizing prosperity and greatness. For this is our beloved homeland, which will continue to be protected by its loyal people. They jealously defend its gains and will work very sincerely and with all devotion to attain for it the highest glory.

The expressions of delight on the faces of the province's population came as a pledge reflecting the extent of their self-discipline, commitment, and loyalty to the presidential statement. As of this morning, delegations representing the militants, the resistance, members of the area's House of Deputies, sub-governorates, municipalities, and other national and youth organizations have hastened to express their loyalty and support for the new leadership to Governor Mohamed Ben Sa'id, as well as their loyalty to the republican regime and their willingness to continue to defend it and its comtemporary gains.

Tatawin Province Governor Osman al-Naghmouchi has sent the following cable to His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali:

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and following your assumption of the Presidency of the Republic and the supreme command of the Tunisian Armed Forces, I have the honor of conveying to your excellency, in my own name and in the name of all the cadres and loyal citizens stationed along the borders in Tatawin Province, our sincere congratulations and good wishes.

At 1200 today Moncef Ben Gharbia, governor of Al Kaf, received a delegation comprising the deputies of various vocational and social organizations, and members of the party coordination committee, headed by Mohamed Hedi Oueslati, secretary general of the committee. They expressed, in the name of their delegations, the support of the cadres, militants, and populace of the area for the contents of the statement by Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic, and their commitment to carry out what was contained in this statement under the aegis of security and national unity.

Former Interior Minister Voices Support

LD071358 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Nov 87

[Text] Paris 7 Nov TAP—Mr Driss Guiga, former Tunisian interior minister who currently lives abroad, expressed his satisfaction with the change in the Presidency which took place this morning, Saturday.

In a press statement, Mr Guiga said: "I salute this operation, which is a purge, public salvation, and normalization operation. I am very happy that it was implemented in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and within the framework of a respect for legitimacy by Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who in shouldering his responsibilities has proven an acute sense of loyalty to the national interest."

Mr Guiga was removed from his post 7 January 1984 in the wake of the bread riots.

Will Return From Exile

LD081458 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1250 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Text] Paris, 8 Nov (KUNA)—It was stated here that Driss Guiga, the former Tunisian interior minister who has been residing in France since 1984, has decided to return to Tunisia today.

Guiga has told KUNA that he will return to his homeland "following the historic change brought about by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, as I am confident that national harmony has now replaced the practices of the past."

Guiga was considered one of the most important leaders of the regime until January 1984, when he was accused by former Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali with inciting the people to demonstrate against the decision to raise prices of bread, in order to overthrow him and head the government in his place.

Former President Bourguiba ordered Guiga's trial in absentia on charges of treason, and he was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

In his statement, Guiga added: "I am not at all afraid, as I am sure that the conditions under which I was tried have changed today and that reason has returned to the high authority of the state."

Meanwhile, Bourguiba's former wife, Wassila Ben Ammar, has maintained silence, confining herself to a reminder that one should be reserved in everything one says about her ex-husband.

Bourguiba divorced her after she affirmed in a press statement that the people should be consulted in all matters affecting the country's future.

Bourguiba's Son Released From House Arrest

LD082333 Paris Domestic Service in French 2300 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Text] The son of former Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba was released yesterday [8 November] from house arrest, under which he had been placed yesterday after his father's deposition.

Labor Leader House Arrest Ends

LD091313 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] An authoritative source has just reported that the order imposed yesterday on Habib Achour [former secretary general of the Tunisian General Federation of Labor] to remain in his residence has been lifted.

Former Prime Minister's Family To Be Released

LD091426 Paris Domestic Service in French 0900 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] The family of former Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali will be released as a result of the overthrow of Habib Bourguiba. Mrs Mzali was sentenced to 15 years in prison last April for maladministration of public (?funds). She will be able to recover her passport during the next few hours and, as such, will be able to join her husband who lives in exile in Paris. The same measure will also apply to the children of the former prime minister, Mohamed Mzali.

Exiled Former Foreign Minister To Return

LD092231 Paris Domestic Service in French 1700 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] It has been learned that former Tunisian Foreign Minister Mohamed Masmoudi, who has been living in exile in France for 13 years, ever since the abortive agreement to merge with Libya, intends to return to Tunisia to live in the next few days.

Hedi Mabrouk Retires for 'Health Reasons'

LD081852 Paris International Service in French 1800 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Text] Former Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk has announced his intention to leave the political scene for health reasons.

Mahmoud Mestiri, his successor as of yesterday, is already in action, taking part in the Arab summit in Amman, Jordan. He hopes to obtain recognition of the new government from the Arab countries attending the summit.

Baccouche Confirms Bourguiba's Continuing Role
LD091127 Paris Domestic Service in French
0700 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] [Announcer] The situation in Tunisia is still calm on the day after the dismissal of President Habib Bourguiba and the occupation of the highest office by his prime minister, General Ben Ali. The Tunisians greeted the news with relief and all diplomatic circles except Iran have expressed themselves favorably toward the new government. The former president, aged 84, is still with his niece at the palace in Carthage in the suburbs of Tunis, but in fact, Marc Crepin, Bourguiba is not the only one to have been set aside.

[Crepin] The ousting of Habib Bourguiba was not without risk. Friday night all of his relatives, including his very influential niece, Saida Sassi, and his son, Habib Bourguiba, Jr, were isolated or arrested. The new regime wanted to act very fast. It is not five or six family members, but several dozen who are reported to have been put under house arrest, including two ministers, the chairman and managing director of Tunis Air, the chief of staff of the Air Force, and many advisers. They are all known to be schemers, holders of several positions at a time, or people who represent a threat to the new regime. Only the former foreign minister, Hedi Mabrouk, caught out on a visit to Riyadh by the overthrow, is generally thought of as a political rival. Bourguiba, the symbol, remains. Zine Ben Ali and his prime minister want to keep him at all costs, and even hope for a gesture, a word, or a letter of approval from him, which they do not despair of obtaining soon.

Marc Crepin in Tunis for France Inter.

[Announcer] [Word indistinct] new Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche was to confirm to Marc Crepin that for Tunisia, Habib Bourguiba remains the supreme combatant:

[Begin Baccouche recording] The President (?must thus) remain the reference for [word indistinct] in the future. We want to safeguard Bourguiba's past. We want Bourguiba to remain the father of our country. The only problem that (?has to be) solved is the problem of the exercise of the presidential prerogative. There will be no destabilization. [end recording]

[Announcer] There is, however, a clarification from the new leaders. They are determined to create the necessary conditions for a democracy, in which all Tunisians will participate actively and genuinely.

Bourguiba Moved to La Mornaghia Residence
LD091716 Paris Domestic Service in French
1500 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Habib Bourguiba has been transferred by helicopter to his residence at La Mornaghia, some 40 km from Tunis. There are no tanks around his presidential palace now, but simply metal barriers and a few policemen.

Ben Ali Chairs Ministerial Council on Budget
LD091714 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] His excellency the president of the Republic, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, chaired a restricted ministerial council at the government palace in Kasbah this morning with the attendance of Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche. The minister attached to the prime minister for planning, the finance minister, and the governor of the Central Bank also participated.

This meeting was devoted to studying the economic budget bill and the general state budget for 1988, in light of reports presented by the minister attached to the prime minister for planning and the finance minister, concerning the main lines and aspects of the development plan for 1988.

Baccouche Attends Destourian Party Meeting
LD091553 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, secretary general of the Destourian Socialist Party, presided over a meeting held at the party's headquarters in the Kasbah this afternoon. It was attended by the secretaries general of the party's coordination committees; the party director, Dr Hamed Karoui; and the chairman of the Militants' Consultative Committee, Bechir Zarg el Ayoun.

Commentary Praises Change in Government
LD072118 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1911 GMT 7 Nov 87

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, the events which have occurred today in our country give rise to certain questions in the conscience of the Tunisian, for which we will try to provide answers as a contribution to the collective thinking of our people and as an attempt to consolidate some conclusions which are inevitably to be drawn.

The first step is to put these events in their proper place with regard to Tunisia's Constitution and laws, with regard to the norms of political action, and in respect of the peoples' ability to remain alert.

The obvious conclusion that comes to mind at this point is that the change which has taken place is a legitimate change which complies with the text and the letter of the Constitution. Tunisia, which has always strived to be a country of institutions and which has cherished its civilian-republican regime, is today, as it was yesterday, a young civil republic. The events merge into a civilian development governed by the country's constitution and are based on what that constitution has approved as the means of rectification and reform.

Tunisians have realized the extent of actual (?decline) of the president's plan over the long previous years and this has tortured their consciences with unanswered questions about the future because they sensed that the continuation of those conditions carried the danger of a state explosion and the dismemberment of society.

Then 7 November 1987 came to prove that the Tunisian Republic does not lack republican men; men who will shoulder the responsibility of rectification; men who base their actions of correction and salvation on the very Constitution and who will restore events to their normal course.

If the event has acquired historical dimensions for our people, it is not because it represents a break with the past nor a political defection. It is because the event has put an end to the legend and has extricated the country from the epic story into the rule of reality.

These reasons have led to the spontaneity of the peoples' expressions of satisfaction. The expressions of the ordinary citizen are relaxed and indicate his deep sense that his homeland has recovered its ability to progress. History, which had been stationary for many years because of the lost ability to correct and rectify reality, will resume its cycle on our land. This has provided the unanimity which characterizes this day. For the first time, the voices of the Tunisians have come together without exception in blessing the event and supporting it. If we had known that such support was not forthcoming from many sections of our people, we would have realized finally that the correction which has been achieved is a deliverance, not only for (?peaceful civility), but especially for all the achievements which have distinguished Tunisian society. The essence of these achievements was due to sedition and conflict which prevailed in the country, and the lack of every motive for national solidarity and social togetherness.

While Tunis is today correcting all these circumstances, it affirms its eagerness about the future and its desire for political, social, and cultural conditions that are more worthy of the ingenuity of its people and more suitable for the Tunisian man who aspires to live as a citizen, instead of as an individual.

U.S. President Reaffirms Support for Tunisia

LD091802 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has received a message of congratulations from President Ronald Reagan of the United States. Here is the text of the message:

Your Excellency Mr President, I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm my personal pledge to maintain the close relations between our two countries. In the same way as the United States has supported Tunisia in its independence and during its long struggle to secure social and economic progress for its people, the United States will stand by Tunisia while it faces the challenges confronting it now. We remain committed to that which benefits Tunisia's independence, territorial integrity, and its economic, social, and political progress.

The future heralds good news. Consolidating Tunisia's economy and traditions in favor of political diversity may open new doors to progress. While you are endeavoring to carry out this important task, please accept my most sincere wishes and sentiments of respect.

Justice Ministry Postpones 9 Nov 'Case'

LD071014 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 Nov 87

[Text] The Ministry of Justice has issued the following statement:

It has been decided to postpone consideration of the case submitted to the State Security Court—which, according to previous announcements, should take place on Monday, 9 November—to a date to be later arranged. [sentence as heard]

[Kuwait KUNA in Arabic at 0936 GMT on 7 November cites the above report, and adds: "The State Security Court was to be convened for a trial of the members of the Islamic Tendency Movement who were recently captured after having been in hiding."]

Kuwait

UN Envoy Urges Soviet Withdrawal From DRA

LD092316 Kuwait KUNA in English 2010 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] United Nations, Nov 9 (KUNA)—Kuwait Monday called on the international community to hasten the work towards a political settlement to the Afghan crisis until peace and security are regained in Afghanistan.

"There is no military solution to the crisis caused by the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan. This crisis can only be resolved by peaceful political means in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the Afghan people," Kuwait's Ambassador Muhammad Abu al-Hasan told the General Assembly in its first day of debate of "the situation in Afghanistan."

A comprehensive settlement to the Afghan problem, he said, must be based on the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, the respect of Afghanistan's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and the return of the refugees to their homes in a dignified manner.

He said Kuwait calls on all the parties concerned to redouble their efforts to hasten the finding of a solution to the issues related to the time-frame for the withdrawal of foreign troops "which we hope will be short."

He said any settlement must be kept away from foreign intervention and pressure so that the situation in Afghanistan will not be exploited to serve the interests and aims of non-Afghan parties.

Kuwait, he said, appeals to the secretary-general to persevere in his efforts to promote a peaceful settlement and to seek and provide appropriate guarantees to solve the Afghan crisis.

"We appeal to our Afghan brothers to begin the process of affirming their right to self-determination, as one of the fundamental elements of the settlement," he said.

Kuwait, he said, supports the role played by the Afghan mujahidin movement to recover Afghanistan's independence, Islamic identity and neutral status and will continue to assist their struggle until victory.

PDRY

Al-Bid Returns From Moscow, Makes Statement

EA082322 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, arrived in Aden this evening from Moscow together with a party delegation that had accompanied him to the Soviet capital. Those returning participated in celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution [GOSR] in response to an invitation from the CPSU Central Committee.

The brother secretary was greeted at Aden International Airport by the following brothers: Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the Central Committee; Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers; a number of brother members of the Political Bureau and the Central Committee; and members of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and ministers.

The brother secretary general then stated on his arrival: In responding to an invitation from the CPSU Central Committee, we were honored to visit the friendly USSR from 1 to 8 November at the head of a party delegation. During our stay we participated in celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of the GOSR. We were very happy to have attended all the activities organized to commemorate this glorious internationalist occasion. In their solemnity, diversity, and precise organization, these ceremonies embodied the high position occupied by the GOSR in the consciousness of communists and Soviet citizens. They also incorporated the consciousness of the people of our age who aspire to a new world free of all forms of war, injustice, and suffering.

We will continue to recall with great pride the splendid impressions we formed of the spirit of renewal and vivacity in which the Soviet people celebrated the 70th anniversary of the GOSR. This reflected the spirit of the new process of revolutionary change, which is led by the CPSU and is based on the resolutions of the April 1985 session of the CPSU Central Committee and the topics and resolutions of its 27th Congress. [passage omitted]

We took the opportunity of being in Moscow to meet with representatives of the Soviet leadership, including Comrade Nikolay Ryzhkov, member of the Politburo and prime minister, and discussed questions of bilateral cooperation on party and economic matters. Our talks culminated in an agreement on party cooperation for 1988-91 and expediting current efforts to exploit oil fields discovered in our country.

In Moscow we also held a number of meetings with Comrade Erich Honecker, secretary general of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and chairman of the GDR State Council; Comrade Janos Kadar, secretary general of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party and president [as heard] of the Republic of Hungary; and Comrade Fidel Castro, secretary general of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Republic of Cuba. We additionally met with heads of delegations representing communist and workers parties, as well as heads of delegations of Arab revolutionary parties in

Arab countries. In all these meetings we discussed bilateral relations and methods of strengthening and developing them. Arab and international developments were also reviewed. Our joint stands on these issues were coordinated.

Agreement Settles Border 'Crisis' With Oman
JN072133 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 5 Nov 87 p 1

[Text] *Al-Ittihad al-Usbu'i* has learned that the PDRY and Oman reached a comprehensive agreement this week ending the transient crisis that erupted between the two countries. This followed armed clashes between their border forces that occurred by mistake in October. Responsible sources in the PDRY told *Al-Ittihad* yesterday that closed talks were held in Aden between officials of the two countries. These talks resulted in complete agreement to close the file on this incident, release seven Omani soldiers, and return the body of an eighth soldier who was killed in these clashes. The sources asserted that this regrettable and passing incident will never affect the growth of bilateral relations.

Saudi Arabia

Ministers Meet, Raise Domestic Gasoline Prices
LD092220 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1820 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Al-Madinah, 9 Nov (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, presided over a session of the Council of Ministers this afternoon at Tibah Palace.

Following the meeting, His Excellency 'Ali al-Sha'ir, minister of information, told SPA that the council began by reviewing summaries of reports concerning Arab and international events. The most important of these was the convening of the emergency Arab summit conference, which, having raised great hopes, continues today in the Jordanian capital. The custodian of the two holy mosques expressed his deep satisfaction at the overall Arab attendance and integration at the conference. He reaffirmed the hopes and aspirations of the Saudi Government and people that God will help Arab leaders achieve their nation's objectives, unify its trends, and secure victory for its causes.

His majesty, God bless him, said: Due to our deep awareness of the acuteness of the circumstances experienced by the region and the challenges facing the Arab nation, I am fully convinced of the sincere intentions of leaders of the Arab nation. Their eagerness to reach a common view will enable us, with God's will and assistance, to overcome obstacles to the objectives they seek. We are working for these goals with all the determination, firm conviction, and true desire we possess to find an expected solution to issues affecting our destiny.

Minister al-Sha'ir added: The council then discussed a number of vital local matters and referred them to the appropriate committees to put them in their final form.

The minister said the council issued a number of decisions, including:

1. On the basis of a report from the acting minister of oil and mineral resources, the ministry conducted studies on oil product prices and their production and distribution costs compared to prices in neighboring countries. As a result, the council agreed to modify the price of super gasoline only and maintain the prices of other products. This is due to the fact that the change in super gasoline prices will not affect production sectors such as agriculture, industry, and transport. Following this decision, the new prices of super gasoline from 8 November 1987 will be:

(A) Wholesale prices from Petromin distribution depots—from 30.25 halalah [1 riyal equals 100 halalah] to 46.15 halalah per liter;

(B) Retail price from 35 halalah to 53.40 halalah per liter at gasoline stations located within the area served by Petromin distribution depots. At gasoline stations in other towns, the cost of transport will be added, recognizing that the total price equals the lowest prices found in neighboring towns. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

President Interviewed on Gulf War, Amman Summit
JN071605 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 7 Nov 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 7 (GNA)—United Emirates President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan said the Amman summit should delegate three Arab leaders to work towards ending the Iran-Iraq war within a known and defined framework.

In a wide-ranging interview with the Kuwaiti *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* daily newspaper, Shaykh Zayid said that the three "impartial leaders would tell the Iranians: We are authorised by the Arab leaders to ensure all your rights...out of our keenness to prevent the annihilation of our Moslem Iranian brothers and also our brothers in Iraq, and safeguard what is left of money and men."

He said the same assurance will be given to Iraq.

The president added that if Iran accepted the mediation, both countries will be asked to withdraw their troops and order a cease-fire.

However, he added the leaders would remind both countries of the need for a united Arab and Islamic front to fight Israel.

In an apparent reference to Israel, Shaykh Zayid warned Iraq and Iran "our enemy is there amongst us, our enemy is strong and well-supported."

"This requires us to rely on ourselves as Arabs and our brothers, the Muslims, wherever they are, against this strong enemy," he told *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm*.

Asked whether the GCC states were willing to compensate the Iranians for war damages if they were requested to do so, the UAE president said:

"I have not said we will give the Iranians if they asked (for compensation), but they will be given if their right to compensation was proved and guaranteed by the authorised leaders after the arbitration."

He said he was ready to go to Iran if the Arab leaders at the summit asked him to use his good offices and mediate an end to the seven-year old conflict.

Asked about the increasing presence of foreign fleets in the Gulf waters, the UAE president said he has repeatedly warned the Iranians that a prolongation of the war could bring in the foreign superpowers.

"In fact, both Iran and Iraq are responsible for the presence of those fleets," Shaykh Zayid said. "If Iraq and Iran have a say now in this war, the matter will be in the hands of the superpowers afterwards."

He pointed out that both the Western and Eastern powers were only working to safeguard their interests in the region and not for the sake of the people in the Gulf.

Shaykh Zayid said those powers were known to be planning for "tens of years ahead" in the region for the sake of their interests.

On recent Iranian attacks on Kuwait, Shaykh Zayid, while calling for restraint and patience, stressed that Kuwait, as a member of the GCC, will enjoy the backing of its partners—the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman

"We as members in the GCC will have no other choice than to stand by Kuwait whether we wanted that or not...We consider this as a must dictated by our present status and the brotherhood in the Gulf," he said.

Asked whether the UAE supported the return of Egypt into the Arab fold, the president said, "The return of Egypt is more for the benefit of the Arab nation than it is for Egypt."

He noted that Jordan, which will be hosting the Arab summit on Sunday, was among the countries which had restored relations with Egypt.

"He who does not accept the boycott, nor Egypt's continued isolation from the Arabs, nor the gap its absence creates, should be allowed to follow Jordan's example and take the same position," Shaykh Zayid told the Kuwaiti paper.

Responding to a question on whether certain Arab states would block an attempt by the Gulf countries to vote for Egypt's return at the Amman summit, Shaykh Zayid said:

"The GCC countries are influenced only by persuasion...and I wonder why it does not influence others. The GCC is made up of several states and many others support the GCC and its views.

"Despite the fact that there are few countries which oppose our views and wishes, we are the majority," he added.

Touching again on the Iraq-Iran war, the UAE president ruled out any military solution to the Gulf conflict and said if the United Nations and the Arab world failed to convince Iran to accept peace offers, then the Arabs and the international community will have to look for a third alternative.

"Military options are not solutions," Shaykh Zayid said. "A military solution is only resorted to as a defensive measures to repel the dangers and does not work to solve dangerous issues and catastrophes."

The president said Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria were now closer than before to reconciling their differences.

Asked about the federal drive as the UAE prepares to celebrate its 16th anniversary on 2 December, the president said the federation was progressing in various fields due to the patience that has characterized the leadership in solving problems.

"If differences between us struck a wedge and destroyed some of the roots, then the federation would not have existed today," Shaykh Zayid pointed out.

He recalled that there were some "very dangerous" problems during the first seven years that followed the establishment of the federation in 1971, but "we have confronted everything with patience."

Shaykh Zayid Greets New Tunisian President

JN091124 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, has sent a cable congratulating Tunisian President

Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on his assumption of office. Shaykh Zayid wished the Tunisian president success in achieving the hopes and aspirations of the Tunisian people.

His Highness Shaykh Rashid ibn Sa'id al-Maktum, UAE vice president and prime minister, sent a similar congratulatory cable to the Tunisian president.

Paper Condemns Chirac's 'Concessions' to Israel

JN072143 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 5 Nov 87 p 1

[Editorial: "Chirac the First!!"]

[Text] French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac may have the right to believe that the only way to enter history alongside Napoleon and De Gaulle is through Jerusalem, as he was the first French prime minister to visit the Zionist entity.

It may also be his right to imagine that winning the approval of Israel's terrorist rulers is the path to the hearts of approximately 100,000 Jewish voters in France whose votes may help win the upcoming presidential election. However, there is great doubt about this since the current president, Mitterrand, spared no effort to win the Jewish vote.

Arabs and their friends, however, believe that the French prime minister was unsuccessful on two issues directly linked to Arabs and their friends: First, Chirac, under the slogan of attempting to convince the terrorist Shamir to agree to an international Middle East peace conference, delivered all the concessions Israel requested in advance. In return, Chirac obtained only a frank rejection of the conference he called for from the terrorist Shamir and his government. Shamir has rejected this conference hundreds of times before and has never changed his mind about it.

If the French prime minister was serious in his attempt to convince Shamir to reverse his position, he should have saved all of his inducements as a very polite way of pressuring Israel to agree to an international Middle East peace conference.

Given the outcome of this effort, the Arabs have the right to believe this visit was actually designed to collude with the Zionists and join the U.S.-Israeli alliance, which is hostile to the Arab nation and its aspirations. The talk about an international conference and begging Shamir to agree to it are merely camouflage.

Second: The French prime minister made himself a lawyer for the Jews residing in Syria. He said he refrained from visiting Damascus to protest what he called the Syrian Government's dealings with the Jews. In short, this is flagrant and unacceptable interference in the affairs of an independent Arab state. This type of international conduct also greatly undermines the prestige of the French prime minister. None of the 2,000 Jews living in Syria has requested Chirac's protection, nor has Damascus invited him to visit or shown any eagerness about such a visit.

French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac has done much harm to the Arab friends France had gained since the era of De Gaulle. We believe a great effort will be needed to repair what Chirac has spoiled.

Reported Attack on Jordanian Embassy 'Ridiculed'
JN091318 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1303 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Nov (INA)—An official Iraqi source has ridiculed claims by Tehran radio that the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad was attacked by agents.

The source told INA that this report is a complete fabrication. He added that anyone can visit the Jordanian Embassy and see for themselves how trivial the rulers of Iran have become with their transparent lies.

'Aziz Sends Message to UN on Missile Attack
JN092037 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1805 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Nov (INA)—Iraq informed the United Nations today that the Iranian regime fired a surface-to-surface missile at a densely populated section of Baghdad last night. The missile martyred 4 women and 6 children, and wounded 106 citizens, including 41 women and 48 children. Ten houses were destroyed and eight cars and a number of shops were also damaged. This was noted in a message sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The diplomatic corps in Baghdad and representatives of international and regional organizations visited the scene of the crime this morning.

Tariq 'Aziz affirmed that this ugly crime, which reflects the criminal and aggressive nature of the Iranian regime, comes at a time when international and Arab efforts are being made to achieve peace. He added that the insistence of the aggressive and expansionist Iranian regime on committing such crimes mirrors its moral corruption and the depth of its grudge against Iraq and the hopes of the Iraqi people for peace, progress, and stability.

The foreign minister added that by persisting in its crimes against Iraqi civilians, the Iranian regime stresses the complete bankruptcy of its aggressive and expansionist plan. It is incumbent upon you and the international community to strongly condemn it and take all effective measures before matters get out of hand.

'Aziz also emphasized that the cowardly crimes of the Iranian regime will not frighten Iraq. They will instead prompt it to continue defending the sovereignty and security of the homeland. The Iranian leaders will pay a high price for their crimes.

Tariq 'Aziz concluded by asking that his message be distributed as a Security Council document.

Press on 'Timing' of Attack
JN091311 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 9, INA—Iraqi press said today that the missile which the rulers of Iran fired on Baghdad yesterday evening means a lot, adding that timing of the missile carries more than one indication.

In an article published here today, *Al-Thawrah* Iraqi paper said that though yesterday's missile was not the first to be fired by the rulers of Tehran on the bastion of Arab steadfastness, yet, it added, its timing concurred with the holding of the first session of the emergency Arab summit in Amman.

By so doing, the Iraqi paper mentioned, Iran's rulers expressed in a practical and tangible manner their cynicism of the Arab stand taken vis-a-vis the incessant Iranian aggression on Iraq and the Arab nation. More than that, *Al-Thawrah* went on to say, the rulers of Iran wanted, by firing the surface-to-surface missile of yesterday, to consecrate their challenge of the whole Arab nation, represented in the Amman Arab summit.

Warning that the Iranian rulers would be paying a heavy price when the hour of retaliation has come, *Al-Thawrah* said that those rulers were not unaware of Iraq's means of mass destruction.

Commenting on the same topic, *Al-Jumhuriyah* Iraqi paper said today timing of the Iranian missile was not accidental at all, adding that yesterday's missile reflected the panic felt by the rulers [words indistinct].

The firing of the Iranian missile, *Al-Jumhuriyah* noted, proved a clear, unequivocal fact, namely: disappointment and bitterness felt by the rulers of Iran because of the consecutive military defeats they sustained along the battle fronts and the setbacks they suffered on the Arab and international arenas.

Al-'Iraq daily pointed out today while the Arab summit is in session in Amman to discuss issues facing the Arab nation, the Iranian enemy fired one of its missiles on a densely-populated residential district in Baghdad, thus expressing its blatant defiance of the emergency Arab summit.

The paper wondered is there a message more effective than this one to remind the Arab leaders that the Iranian regime is the ally of Zionism and the perpetrators of its designs.

Paper on Arab Summit, 'Treasonous' Syrian Stands
JN080723 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0639 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Nov (INA)—The newspaper *Al-'Iraq* has asked the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman to discuss the treasonous stands of the Syrian regime following the exposure of its blackmail and its support of the Iranian regime.

In an editorial today, the newspaper said all evidence proves that the Iranian and Syrian regimes are linked with the Zionist entity in an aggressive and expansionist alliance at the expense of the Arab nation.

The newspaper stressed the need for a unified position alongside Iraq, which has valiantly defended the eastern flank of the Arab homeland for 7 years and fought Iran to protect the Arab nation.

Al-'Iraq pointed out that Iraq's effective participation in the summit and President Saddam Husayn's presence at its meetings is irrefutable proof of our country's principled stands concerning the fateful issues and challenges facing the Arab nation.

Libyan People's Bureau Begins Operations

JN071431 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1340 GMT 7 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (WAKH)—The Libyan People's Bureau in Baghdad began its work after the two countries agreed to resume relations as of last September. In a statement to a WAKH correspondent in Baghdad, 'Abbas Ahmad al-Mustafa, acting head of the Libyan People's Bureau, said that the Iraqi Embassy in Tripoli has also reopened. This took place after an Iraqi diplomatic mission arrived in Libya early last month. He also stated that the Libyan People's Bureau began normal operations in the Iraqi capital on 22 October.

It has already been reported here that Libya has decided to participate in the Baghdad International Fair this month after a 6-year boycott.

The resumption of ties between the two countries was a result of the agreement reached during talks between 'Azzuz al-Talhi, head of the Libyan People's Bureau, and Iraqi officials at the beginning of September.

Iraq decided to sever diplomatic relations with Libya in mid-1985 after Tripoli signed a strategic cooperation agreement with Iran, which has now waged a war against Iraq for more than 7 years.

Kurdish Party Holds Conference, Elects Officials

JN081649 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1438 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Text] Irbil, 8 Nov (INA)—The members of the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK] have asserted that the Kurdish national liberation movement is part of the Iraqi national liberation movement and that the Kurdish people are part of the Iraqi people. This came in a number of resolutions adopted by the 11th national DPK conference, which concluded its work in Irbil Governorate yesterday.

The conference also affirmed that the alliance with the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party is a principled and fateful one based on the fundamental interest of the people and on entrenching joint action with the Progressive National and Patriotic Front in accordance with the national action charter.

The DPK condemned the treasonous positions of the Syrian regime, which supports the plots of the Zionist Iranian regime against Arab countries. The conferees elected nine permanent members of the new DPK Central Committee by direct, secret ballot. These are: Hashim Hasan 'Aqrawi, as party secretary; Ahmad Muhammad Sa'id al-Atrushi, Fadil 'Ali Husayn, Muhsin Tahir al-Barazanji, Fariq Mirkhan al-Zibari, Sa'id Kamal Rashid, Muhammad Yalid Husayn, Rashid Muhammad Sa'id, and 'Abd al-'Aziz Hasan Khushnau as members; and six Central Committee candidate members.

The DPK Central Committee held its first meeting to elect the following members of the DPK Political Bureau: Ahmad Muhammad Sa'id al-Atrushi, Fadil 'Ali Husayn, 'Abd al-'Aziz Hasan Khushnau, and Muhsini Tahir al-Barazanji.

Further Reportage on Gulf Combat Operations

Claims of Mawat Clashes Denied

JN091354 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Nov (INA)—An Iraqi spokesman has denied Iranian claims that fighting has taken place in the area of Mawat.

In a statement to INA a short while ago, the spokesman said these assertions are part of the lies the Iranian regime fabricates daily to feed its propaganda machine. He added that the lies of the Iranian regime have been exposed before the whole world.

Communique No 2,905 Issued

JN091819 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Communique No 2,905 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 9 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious forces continued their combat activities last night and today, inflicting the following new losses on the aggressors:

1. To continue depriving the Iranian regime of the oil supplies used for aggressive purposes against our country and for its crimes against our people and nation, the planes of our gallant Air Force carried out the following two heroic missions:

A. A strong blow was dealt to oil installations in the Marun oil fields at 1400 [1100 GMT] today.

B. An accurate and effective blow was dealt to a large maritime target off the Iranian coast at 1437 today.

To accomplish these and other missions in the operational theaters, our Air Force flew 89 combat missions. All our aircraft then returned safely to base, in God's care.

2. Three infantry positions and an observation post were destroyed and those manning them killed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

3. A heavy machinegun emplacement was destroyed and its occupants wounded in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. Two infantry positions were destroyed and two ammunition dumps demolished in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. Two observation posts were destroyed and their occupants killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

6. Two enemy soldiers were killed and a large vehicle and a heavy machinegun destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

7. The criminal Iranian regime shelled the city of Al-Sulaymaniyah with long-range artillery. The enemy shelling wounded eight civilians, including two children. A speedy recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 November 1987

Communique No 2,906 Issued

JN101728 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Nov 87

[Communique No 2,906 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 10 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continued their combat activities last night and today, inflicting the following additional losses on the enemy:

1. To implement our people's determination to cut off oil supplies and to destroy vital installations used by the Zionist Iranian regime to continue its aggression against our country, our Air Force today carried out the following missions:

A. At 1035 [0735 GMT] today, an accurate, effective blow was dealt to a large maritime target near the Iranian coast.

B. At 1130 today, a violent blow was dealt to a power station in Omidiyeh.

C. Our heroic Air Force continued its raids on assembly points and positions held by the enemy scoundrels, inflicting new losses.

Our aircraft today flew 63 combat missions to carry out these missions. All our aircraft then returned safely to base, in God's care and protection.

2. In the I Army Corps northern sector, two scoundrels were killed and a number of infantry positions destroyed.

3. In the II Army Corps central sector, one grader was damaged, while an observation post and infantry position were destroyed.

4. In the IV Army Corps sector, enemy engineering work was pounded and halted. Three enemy personnel were killed, and a 106-mm gun and an observation post destroyed.

5. In the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris, one enemy soldier was killed, and two infantry positions and one observation post were destroyed.

6. In the VII Army Corps sector, three scoundrels were killed, four infantry positions and a 106-mm gun were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was detonated.

7. The criminal enemy shelled Zamaqi and Zarin in Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate with long-range artillery. As a result, one child and one civilian were martyred. Eight civilians, including one woman and one child, were wounded, and a number of houses were set on fire and damaged. Mercy and forgiveness to our martyrs and a swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 10 November 1987

Peres Links Hijacking to Amman Conference
TA091157 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] We have the reaction of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to the recent hijacking: Peres says that the main purpose of the hijacking—if there was one—was to divert attention from the Amman conference to insane extremist organizations. This is what Peres told Qobi Mandel, our correspondent in Haifa:

[Begin recording] [Peres] From what we know so far, this is apparently not an Israeli yacht. It belongs to civilians who set sail most innocently. At this point we have no accurate details concerning the people aboard the yacht or where it was hijacked. We are currently looking into this. I understand that the Belgian Government has announced that it is a Belgian yacht, and it will probably start dealing with this immediately. The main purpose of the hijacking, however, was to divert attention from the Amman conference to these insane extremist organizations.

[Mandel] Will Israel intervene if it is required to do so?

[Peres] I do not think we should make any declarations before we have accurate and well-established details. I have no intention of saying anything until we have a complete and comprehensive picture.

[Mandel] Sir, do you actually know that a yacht was hijacked?

[Peres] I know exactly what you know. I have no further information because no such yacht is registered in Israel and we have not found such a yacht to be missing. The Belgians, however, have made this announcement, and we must look into this. [end recording]

USSR Withdraws Demand for PLO in Conference
TA091903 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Quoting Israeli sources, AP reports today that the Soviet Union has withdrawn its demand to include a PLO delegation in the international peace conference on the Middle East. The Palestinians would instead be incorporated in the Jordanian delegation. This proposal has apparently been accepted by both Israel and the United States. The sources said that the news of a change in the Soviet attitude had been imparted by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in his meeting with Shim'on Peres last September.

Rabin Denies Iranian Officers Visited IDF
TA101243 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 10 Nov 87

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today described reports alleging that Iranian officers had visited the IDF as rubbish. As may be recalled, a Kuwaiti newspaper reported yesterday that last week three Iranian officers observed firing exercises of surface-to-surface Gabriel missiles. This is reported by our military correspondent Alon Ben-David.

Peres Comments on Amman Summit, Husayn Speech
TA091656 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Commenting on the Islamic conference in Amman and King Husayn's declarations, Shim'on Peres said that he is still optimistic with regard to the chances for a peace settlement.

[Begin Peres recording] What Jordan is trying to do is overcome the rift between the pro-Iranian and the anti-Iranian camps by claiming an imaginary link between Iran and Israel. There is no connection between the two. To force the Syrians to take an anti-Iranian stand, Jordan says that Iran and Israel are one and the same. But I know that the Arabs are aware of the truth, which runs counter to that statement. There is no connection between the Iran-Iraq war and the Israeli-Arab conflict. [end recording]

'Arafat Message on International Conference
TA091205 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Nov 87 p 2

[Text] Tel Aviv (ITIM)—"The people of Israel must be made to know that you can't simply eliminate five million Palestinians and ignore their national rights, just like you can't get rid of Israel. We must strive for a just solution for the good of both peoples and live in peace," PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told the Moscow correspondent of the Israel Communist Party's paper, Leon Zahavi.

In his interview with Zahavi in Moscow on Saturday, 'Arafat said he was addressing the people of Israel to drive home the message that "I am striving for a solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Failure to find such a solution could lead to a local war, which could well escalate into a world war and a nuclear holocaust that would wipe out the human race."

'Arafat continued: "The PLO accepts all the decisions of the UN concerning the conflict, including Resolution 242, an acceptance which we have announced publicly at international conferences. The PLO perceives all these decisions as part of an all-inclusive package, which it accepts in toto, as opposed to the government of Israel which accepts only one decision and rejects all the others. That is a deception."

Weinberger Described As 'Failure,' 'Paranoid'
TA061429 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 6 Nov 87 p 15

[Commentary by Washington correspondent Amnon Dankner: "A Coward Is Gone"]

[Text] Needless to say, not even one handkerchief was taken out in Israel or its embassy in Washington to wipe away tears of sorrow over the resignation of the U.S.

secretary of defense. This is not because Weinberger was a hater of Israel, but because the paranoid Israeli nature looks for simple explanations of persecution, seeks out an enemy whenever there is a dispute, and identifies a foe behind every disagreement.

Begin told Weinberger off and reminded him of his Jewish ancestors. The supporters of the Lavi attacked him personally, although just as Dov Zakheim, an orthodox Jew, could not help the Lavi, Weinberger, the son of converts, could certainly not help it either. His support of sanctions against Israel following the strike on the Iraqi reactor, his coolness toward our Lebanese adventure, and his apprehension about using force to retaliate for terrorist attacks on Americans in the Middle East—all these protrayed him as a staunch hater of Israel, whether he liked it or not.

Israel's dependence on Washington is so vast that it confers strong and deep personal tones to the relations between the two countries. The uproar in Jerusalem began immediately upon Weinberger's appointment. The man is an Arab agent because he worked for Bechtel, the firm that built many of the Arab countries. His colleague, George Shultz, was also a victim of these suspicions but it turned out we took Shultz into the fold as one of the righteous gentiles despite his Bechtelian past.

The Bechtel twins took turns playing the role of hawk and dove according to the issue at stake. Shultz took a dovish position toward the Soviets and a possible agreement with them to reduce nuclear weapons, whereas Weinberger was very skeptical and argued that they were bound to cheat, conceal, and breach any agreement. In contrast, Shultz took a hawkish stance regarding the war against terrorism. He favored preemptive strikes and military retaliation, whereas the secretary of defense demonstrated extreme caution and obstinately refused to unveil the huge war machine.

Ultimately, Weinberger was a failure, a paranoid, and a coward. He belonged with the same kind of people which, thank God, have by now disappeared from the top echelon of the administration; people who came to Washington to help Ronald Reagan hit the evil Soviet empire. They included Jeane Kirkpatrick, Weinberger, and his Jewish aide Richard Perle. All of them, together with the President, enthusiastically joined the huge armament effort—which included huge and dubious spending on the B-1 bomber, the MX missile, and the unreasonable expansion of the Navy—under Weinberger's direction, costing the U.S. taxpayer $2 trillion in 5 years.

Weinberger was in charge of the largest peacetime military build-up in history, but it is hard to say that this gave him confidence in his army. Whenever the White House decided to strike, Weinberger was the one who hysterically tried to tip the scales the other way and reverse the decision. He did not want to attack Libya. He did not want to intercept the *Achille Lauro* hijackers. He vetoed all sorts of semi-secret military initiatives in the Middle East and in Central America. It should be pointed out to his credit that he also objected to sending the Marines to Beirut, a decision which had a heavy cost.

Weinberger's army was not the sophisticated war machine one would have thought it to be based on the enormous sums of money spent on it. The Marines left Beirut with their tails between their legs and carrying coffins on their shoulders.

The invasion of Grenada was one of funniest military events in modern times. Four different units raided the small and defenseless island, got confused and muddled, used maps torn out of atlas books, and almost shot each other. The radios of one unit could not make contact with other units or with headquarters, and the commander of one of the forces ultimately had to call headquarters from a public phone in Grenada using his personal credit card.

An investment of $2 trillion could be expected to be more productive. Internal rivalries within the army persisted and so did the duplication of efforts which cost billions of dollars. The man who had been known at one time as "Cap the knife" because of his ruthless budget cuts during his tenure as director of finances under California Governor Ronald Reagan, later became known as "Cap the ladle" in the Pentagon and in Congress. Senators and congressmen felt hostile toward the spry little man who used to come to them threatening security catastrophes if they refused to open their coffers, increase the budget deficit, and funnel more funds to the Pentagon.

Weinberger is leaving at a time when Congress is considering ways to trim the deficit and when many on the Hill are already smacking their lips at the thought of what will be done with the inflated defense budget. The budget cuts will be effected when Weinberger has long been merely a private citizen sleeping soundly without constantly fearing that the bad Russians will come at night to gobble him up together with the rest of America.

President Reagan, who is gradually growing more and more enamored of the idea of striking deals with the Soviets, may sense that Weinberger, being so paranoid and suspicious, is a liability. There may really be something behind Mrs Weinberger's statement on Tuesday that it is not her illness that is making her husband seek retirement.

Opposite glasnost and the Soviet readiness to do business with the United States, it was really insufferable to repeat Weinberger's old paranoid refrain. In the face of the collapse of the U.S. economy it was difficult to continue to tolerate Weinberger's crying for more money. Although in public appearances Weinberger portrayed himself as a supporter of the intermediate-range nuclear arms limitation agreement, it was an open secret

in Washington that he was striking such a pose half-heartedly and out of his loyalty to the President, and that between his nods of assent the moans of horror could easily be discerned.

If in Israel there were some who popped open a bottle of champagne over Weinberger's retirement, then in Moscow they must really have thrown some wild bashes.

The Soviets are looking beyond the 7 December Washington summit to the May-June 1988 summit in Moscow. They foresee the signing of yet another agreement—this one on a 50-percent cut in the number of long-range missiles. They can already conjure up the image of a clause in that accord imposing limitations on Star Wars.

Weinberger was a staunch supporter of SDI, not necessarily because he believed in its practicality and ability to provide some measure of defense for the United States, but because it annoyed the Soviets. He consequently became an intrepid opponent of attempts to limit it.

If he had stayed on the job, he and George Shultz would most likely have found themselves engaged in disputes over how much the Soviets should be believed and over the extent of the concessions that should be made to them. These arguments would probably have evolved to assume the scope of a scandal. Shultz can now enjoy a secretary of of defense who will be less of an adversary than Weinberger.

Frank Carlucci has managed to butt heads with Shultz since entering office as national security adviser to the White House last January. But he is not on such intimate terms with the President as Weinberger was, and in the remaining 14 months of the Reagan administration he will not be able to accumulate the kind of power Weinberger did in 6 and 1/2 years of service.

Furthermore, Carlucci is not as fervent a supporter of SDI and is more agreeable than Weinberger to an arms limitation accord, although he is still less enthusiastic about it than Shultz.

His career was launched on a rather poor footing when he served as the number 2 man in the U.S. Embassy in the Belgian Congo (later Zaire), and pulled some strings to crown Mobutu and his blood-bathed regime as head of that country. Later he disclosed that this had taught him a lesson and that he no longer belonged to the Neanderthal bunch of paranoids who regard any change in the world as a Communist plot.

As U.S. ambassador to Portugal he clashed with the extreme rightist school of thought when he supported U.S. aid to the socialist government in Lisbon. He lightly dismissed contentions from Jesse Helms' shop that it reeked of assistance to a drift toward communism. Heaven have mercy upon us!

Carlucci carefully staged his first public appearance as national security adviser at a meeting with a forum of the pro-Israeli lobby in Washington. This shows that even though he may not be a cheerleader for Israel, prepared to accept any deed it might do, he realizes the political weight it carries in Washington.

Several Israelis in Washington sighed this week, saying better the devil you know than the one you don't. But Carlucci's entry into the Pentagon may still herald the beginning of a slightly better era in that department's relations with Israel. Moreover, it may begin a better time for U.S. relations with the whole world, which is still more important than relations with Israel alone.

Ultimately we can say good riddance to Weinberger upon realizing that of the trigger-happy school trumpeting a prophecy of doom which Reagan brought with him to Washington in January 1981, there remains only one devotee—Reagan himself. But he has changed, after all, and Weinberger is gone, Kirkpatrick is long gone, as are Haig, Richard Perle, Poindexter, and North, leaving behind only a sensible, rational, and normal group of people who can really be relied upon.

Military Officials at RSA 'Nuclear Test Site'

TA081332 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 8 Nov 87 p 2

[Report by Yehuda Tzur]

[Text] The paper *Orbita BP* [as published], which appears in Venezuela, reports in its latest issue about the presence of Israeli military officials at the construction site of an airfield currently being built on a small island named Marion in the southern Indian Ocean.

According to the biweekly Venezuelan paper, which is intended for dissemination in Latin America, the new airfield is being built by the RSA. Observers believe it is slated to serve as a nuclear weapons test site. According to the Venezuelan report, the RSA has firmly denied these rumors.

The weekly *La Semana* reported that British military experts believe this is a first move in preparing for nuclear experiments by the RSA in the South Pole region. This could directly affect Argentina and Chile, they add.

RSA Seeking To Lure Lavi Engineers, Technicians

TA091136 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Nov 87 p 1

[Report by defence correspondent Hirsh Goodman]

[Text] The South African Government has initiated a systematic campaign to attract engineers and technicians who worked on the Lavi project. According to reports that have reached *The Jerusalem Post* from reliable sources, the South Africans are concentrating on a highly

specialized group of about 600 Lavi developers among the 3,000 persons destined to be fired from Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI]. The Pretoria government has also approached key project officers still employed by IAI.

The South Africans are offering salaries of $40 an hour and $7,000 a month that will be deposited in a European account on behalf of the employees, the reports say. In addition to a salary, work contracts also include wide-ranging benefits, such as generous housing and transportation allowances.

While officials at IAI refuse to answer any questions on the subject, they say that they cannot prevent former Lavi employees from accepting such contracts, and cannot impose limits on knowledge about the project that these employees may take with them. "You can't prevent a person from taking his head with him, no matter how many copies of the Official Secrets Act he has signed," one official said when asked about the problem.

The recently instituted official guidelines limiting Israel's military cooperation with South Africa also do not apply, because those employees who sign on with the South African military industries will be doing so as individuals.

The intense South African recruiting effort does not come as a surprise to military observers. Since the mid-1970's, following the international embargo on arms sales to South Africa, the South Africans have invested heavily in building up a sophisticated military-industrial infrastructure. Today, that infrastructure is highly developed, producing a wide range of missiles, armoured vehicles, artillery, munitions and, recently, the Cheetah, a South African version of the Mirage—some say the Kfir.

It is entirely consistent with this effort that South Africa should attempt to attract these highly qualified Israelis, not only to enhance its own new fighter development programme, but also to use them on a wide range of related projects.

Attempts to establish how many Israelis have accepted South African contracts have proved unsuccessful.

The phenomenon, however, has been widespread enough to attract official attention here, with some in the defence establishment recommending that thought be given to the consequences of the potential drain of classified knowledge from Israel to South Africa, and the damage it could do to Israel's security.

There is also a danger that Lavi technologies reaching South Africa could make it a competitor with Israel in attempts to sell them. South Africa and Israel share many potential clients who have been barred from obtaining sophisticated weapon technologies from the U.S.

Saudi Religious Official Postpones Visit

TA091225 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 9 Nov 87 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Contacts have recently been held between Israeli and Arab elements to enable a visit by the head of the Islamic World Association, 'Abdallah 'Umar Nasif, who is also a senior Saudi diplomat.

The Islamic World Association embraces all Islamic countries. About a year ago, it convened a Muslim summit conference in Kuwait in which Egypt also participated. Our correspondent has learned that in the end the Saudi diplomat decided not to come at this time, but he may come in the future.

According to the plan, he had been scheduled to meet with prominent Israelis and people from the territories and to pray in the mosque. [not further identified]

These contacts may have been the result of the disappointment of Morocco, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia with the convening of the Arab summit in Amman. Our correspondent reports that Egypt and Morocco wanted to convene a Muslim, not an Arab, summit, because they believe the Arab summit will have to toe the Syrian and Libyan extremist line, while the pragmatic countries in the Islamic World Association carry more weight. Egypt belongs to the Islamic World Association although it was expelled from the Arab League. Nasif's visit may have been aimed at illustrating the extremism of the Arab summit as compared with the moderation of the broader Muslim bloc.

Norway Suspects France of Heavy Water Transfer

TA091431 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Nov 87 p 3

["Exclusive" report from Copenhagen by Eliyahu Zehavi]

[Text] The affair of the heavy water Norway sold to Israel in 1959, which now constitutes a diplomatic dispute between Israel and Norway, has taken on a new dimension. Norway suspects France of transferring heavy water to Israel without Norway's agreement.

France is the largest consumer of the heavy water produced by Norway.

The production of nuclear weapons in France is mainly based on imported heavy water produced in Norway. Radio Oslo reports that since 1950 Norway has sold 150 tons of heavy water to France.

In contrast to the agreement with Israel, which guarantees Norway the right to supervise the use of the heavy water and contains an Israeli commitment that the water will be for civilian use, the agreement between Norway

and France contains no similar clauses. France is entitled to use the water for the production of nuclear weapons. The agreement does, however, obligate France to obtain agreement concerning the transfer of any heavy water to a third country.

Because of the publicity given to Mordekhay Vanunu's testimony, Norway has demanded from Israel the right to implement the clauses of the agreement concerning 20 tons of heavy water which were sold in 1959. This is the first time, however, that Radio Oslo has openly publicized the suspicions that France has transferred heavy water to Israel without having received Norway's agreement.

Norway has appealed to France for its reaction to the question of whether it transferred heavy water to Israel. So far France has refused to respond to this question.

Commentary Reviews State of Peace Process

TA061226 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Nov 87 p B5

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "Shultz Proposed: The Reagan-Gorbachev Summit Would Confer Its Auspices on Jordanian-Israeli Negotiations"—words in boldface as published]

[Excerpts] It makes no difference whether Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir met King Husayn in the 'Arava—as reported by the press—or in London, where the latter conferred with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in April this year. It does not matter whether the meeting was held because U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz urged the king to meet with the Likud leader or whether it was held without U.S. intervention.

The official denial issued by the Prime Minister's Office that the entire story had been "contrived" does not matter either, because all the reports about meetings between Israeli leaders and the Jordanian king, except for Peres' last meeting with Husayn, have never been confirmed or have been censored "for security reasons."

One thing is clear. Anybody within the small circle of senior officials in Israel, the United States, and Jordan who have had anything to do with the peace process over the past few months is aware of the move attributed to and denied by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, even if 'Ezer Weizman—a member of the Inner Cabinet who this week set out to shake up the government because of its inactivity for the cause of peace—is not one of them. [passage omitted]

'Ezer Weizman's statement that "Labor Party members have actually left me to wage this struggle on my own" may be more serious than he meant it to be. As long as he complains about his party and reprimands even its most senior members for, as he put it, ignoring the truth—"and the truth is that Shamir has won a major victory because he managed to curb Peres' peace initiative"—the prime minister sees no need to intervene. However, if 'Ezer Weizman intends to persist in his attacks against the prime minister, he will also have to take into account the veiled limit set by Shamir and make sure he does not cross it lest his friends actually do leave him "to wage this struggle on his own."

Peres does not need to be shaken up by Weizman on the question of the peace process. He has to plan his moves wisely, because Secretary of State George Shultz does not see the international conference as a fool-proof recipe for promoting the peace process. This is the reason why Peres, who still sees the international conference as a convenient means for launching negotiations, is doing his best to maneuver within the narrow margins of the current political situation. If he thought a "government crisis" would make the prime minister meet him halfway, he would not hesitate to create one. No crisis, however, can help promote the peace process when the conditions for holding an international conference are not yet ripe, particularly in view of the stance of the Soviet Union, which is not prepared to comply with Peres' requisites while ignoring Shamir's position.

This being the case, what can Peres do when Husayn is not prepared to come to negotiations without an international conference, and such a conference is unfeasible? Under these circumstances, is it conceivable for the Labor Party to take Weizman's cue and create a crisis?

The problem with Weizman is that he overextended himself by opening too broad a front—not only against Peres but also against Shamir—without himself saying how negotiations should be attained.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that in his session with Husayn in London, Shultz tried to persuade the king that the United States was serious in its efforts to promote the peace process. Shultz said that Washington does not reject the actual notion of a conference, and that it is not motivated by Israel's interests alone. He also made it clear to Husayn, however, that **the convening of a conference in accordance with the Jordanian formula exclusively** is impossible!

Shultz thought—and he said as much to the king—that there is room to examine other alternatives, such as the auspices of the two superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union—and he explained that the condition for including the Soviet Union would be: "If Moscow is constructive."

This is what the argument is all about. When Shultz talks about "constructiveness" he probably means Soviet willingness to allow the sides to conduct direct negotiations without superpower intervention. When the Soviet Union talks about "constructive participation" what it has in mind is that the conference should play an active role and should not serve only as "an umbrella and a cover for separate deals and moves," as Mikhail Gorbachev phrased it.

Shultz believed, perhaps with a measure of naivete stemming from his honesty, that a dramatic momentum for the entire peace process could be attained if the Soviet Union, just like the United States, were prepared to give Jordan and Israel the opportunity to settle their dispute face to face. Syria's turn would have come in the wake of such an agreement.

Shultz conceived an original idea: that the auspices of the two superpowers should replace the international conference, and that these auspices should be conferred by the upcoming Reagan-Gorbachev summit. Such a move within the framework of a summit that is meant to bring peace and tranquility to the world may have a dramatic effect which would illustrate to the entire world that the two superpowers are definitely determined to make an active contribution to the settlement of international conflicts, including the Israeli-Arab one.

It would seem, however, that neither Husayn nor the Soviet Union are willing to accept substitutes to their idea of an international conference. Their rejection of this original notion which was accepted by Israel would seem to arouse doubts about their true intentions. The Soviet Union would be prepared to compromise with the United States and agree to auspices by the two superpowers, but not as an "extra", unable to influence the nature of the peace agreements. This is the real problem at present. If Weizman thinks that there is no room for setting conditions and that Israel should agree to a conference according to the Soviet formula, with the PLO's overt or covert participation, he does not only have a problem with Shamir but also with Peres, and his plan for getting the entire Labor Party to rally behind the "peace offensive" he launched this week remains unclear.

The conclusion is: Ideological inhibitions, such as those dividing Shamir and Husayn, should not hinder a straightforward examination of the nature of feasible arrangements. According to U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy's reports, Husayn is pessimistic. He apparently feels that his accords with the Israeli foreign minister cannot be implemented.

Even Murphy, who has played a key role in the process in the past 2 years from the time Peres embraced the notion of an international conference as an opening for negotiations with Jordan, could not be the bearer of good tidings to the king. According to press reports, in a closed session of the U.S. Congressional Foreign Relations Committee, Murphy said that if Jordan and the Soviet Union reject the latest initiative (which was discussed during Shultz' recent visit in Israel), a new proposal should not be expected and "we will now go into a period of deep freeze."

It was in the face of this pessimistic forecast that the prime minister stated this week: "An agreement with Jordan that does not run counter to the vital interests of any of the sides can be attained, but only through direct negotiations as soon as Husayn realizes that no other bidders are prepared to offer him more."

A few months ago a meeting between Husayn and Shamir might have been pleasant and candid but futile. If a meeting takes place in the near future, it may be more expedient, unless the king opts to wait and see the results of the next elections before deciding with whom to meet.

Workers From Lebanon To Pay Tax for SLA

TA081854 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 8 Nov p 2

[Text] South Lebanon—Lebanese nationals employed in Israel will, as of now, pay a 5 percent tax that will be transferred to the South Lebanese Army [SLA] treasury. This step was taken by the IDF liaison unit in Lebanon and the Employment Service in response to the request of SLA Commander General Lahd, who said these funds would represent an indirect assistance from the people of Lebanon to their army.

Shlomo Hadad, the ITIM correspondent in the north, reports that 1,100 Lebanese workers from almost every village in the security zone are employed in Israel. Most of them work for industrial plants in the vicinity of Qiryat Shemona, while others have found employment in agriculture and the hotel business.

The grave economic situation in Lebanon has sent thousands of workers to the IDF Liaison Headquarters in the hope of finding work in Israel.

SLA Commander Gen Lahd has also approached the authorities on this subject, requesting that the number of Lebanese workers in Israel be increased to at least 5,000.

The average salary of a Lebanese citizen working in Israel is 500 to 800 Israeli shekels. There are no deductions from these wages, except for a health tax. Many such workers even work overtime on the Sabbath and on holidays, earning as much as 1,000 Israeli shekels.

Terrorist on Trial Claims Shin Bet Violence

TA091502 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] The trial of 'Awwa Falayyin from Bethlehem, charged with planning to drive a booby-trapped car into the Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem and detonate it there, was postponed today following a complaint filed by the defendant who claimed that her confession was extracted through use of violence on the part of Shin Bet interrogators.

Our corresspondent Zohar Melamed reports that the defense counsel appealed to the Nabulus military court president requesting that a pre-trial hearing be held in which the defendant's confession and its admissibility

would be discussed. The defense counsel will furnish the court with a list of Shin Bet interrogators and a description of their acts, to enable the prosecutor to summon them to the hearing.

Cabinet Endorses Landau Report, Recommendations
TA081350 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Excerpt] The Cabinet endorsed the Landau Commission report on the Shin Bet's investigation methods and adopted all its recommendations. Another decision was that a small ministerial committee will be set up to oversee Shin Bet operations. The committee will include the prime minister and the foreign, defense, and justice ministers.

Only two ministers, Yitzhaq Navon and Moshe Shahal, abstained in this morning's vote. At the end of the session Minister Shahal told our political correspondent, 'Oz Frankel, that there must be legislation to define and limit the Shin Bet's operations. Without such legislation, he said, the Shin Bet investigators cannot be properly overseen. Minister Shahal criticized the Landau Commission for failing to determine the responsibility at the ministerial level. [passage omitted]

Labor Party Mainstream Criticizes Peres Stand
TA061340 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Nov p B2

[Report by Ilan Shehori]

[Text] The meeting of the Labor Party mainstream at the beginning of this week in Ma'ale Efrayim in the Jordan Rift valley once again stressed the ideological abyss within the party, in particular between its leader, Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, and the silent majority of the party members.

One of the participants called the occupants of 110 Hayarqon Street [Labor Party headquarters in Tel Aviv] and those of the foreign minister's office in Jerusalem "PLO lovers." When urged by other participants, he had to retract his remarks, but the atmosphere at that gathering fully reflected the participants' disappointment with the new line taken by Peres as Labor party leader, which they considered contradictory to the Labor manifesto and to the Labor Party convention's resolution.

Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hilel who, regardless of his office, takes part in numerous political gatherings and events, directed pointed criticism at the party leader. He would be the object of sharp criticism when the convention was over, mainly from two representatives of the party's dovish branch, Knesset Members Aharon Har'el and Ora Namir. Yet the criticism directed at Hilel today is influenced to a great extent by the fact that as Knesset speaker he managed, at the party convention, to cement a place for himself on the Labor list for the next Knesset.

Some of the speakers at the Ma'ale Efrayim meeting compared Peres' stand to that of Peace Now. But there was also one speaker in favor of the party chairman. Knesset Member Simcha Dinitz was careful in his speech to avoid the general atmosphere of condemnation. He criticized the Likud and explained that Peres' plan does not contain a commitment to Jordan regarding the return of the territories.

MAPAM Leaders Demand Government Flexibility
TA091409 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 9 Nov 87 p 4

[Report by party affairs correspondent Dorit Gefen]

[Excerpts] Yesterday the MAPAM Central Committee unanimously approved a political document presenting the party's positions on the peace process. MAPAM calls on people who fear for the country's future and who wish to guarantee peace and security to pressure the government into showing maximum flexibility in its attitude toward peace negotiations, provided that framework guarantees direct dialogue between the parties to the dispute as well as international backing for any agreement achieved among them.

Political Secretary Knesset Member [MK] Ya'ir Tzaban, who opened the debate in the Central Committee, referred to changes taking place in the international arena and the superpower rapprochement capable of easing the Middle East peace process. Tzaban said the Likud fears the beginning of the peace process, knowing that the nation is impatient and does not have staying power. As soon as it sees that peace is within reach, it would be ready to break away from its positions if this would obtain peace, as happened with Egypt. Tzaban criticized Peres, who has indeed totally identified himself with the matter of peace, but has not measured up to the task. [passage omitted]

Ilan Asia said the paper was only partially complete. In his opinion two facts should be recognized: the existence of the Palestinian problem, and the existence of fear in the Jewish population. He added that the Arab countries' war against Israel did not break out because of the Palestinian problem. [passage omitted]

MK Haya Grossman emphasized that there have been changes among the public. She criticized Peres and warned against delusions on the question of where the Palestinians in Peres' condominium proposal had disappeared to. As for Shamir's remarks that everyone wants peace, she said that was a big bluff. Anyone who speaks about a status quo is not speaking about peace. She rejected the claim that we must solve only the Jewish problem, saying that we would not be able to solve it without a solution to the Palestinian problem.

MK Muhammad Watad stressed that the power of the political paper lay in its balance. The paper is a compromise between Jews and Jews, he said, and you will be surprised to note it is also a compromise between Jews and Arabs.

He said there was no need to spare criticism where criticism was necessary. We were all moved at the struggle of our sister Ida Nudel, but what about our brother Muhammad? Should we not whole-heartedly criticize the fact that he has to wage a passive fight? Watad suggested a transfer for Minister Yosef Shapira in return for 15,500 Israeli shekels.

MAPAM Secretary General MK El'azar Granot, who concluded the debate, explained that the paper is MAPAM's political position. We speak clearly to MAPAM members first of all. The foundations of the peace agreement with Egypt fit in with MAPAM's foundations for peace as determined after 1967. Commenting on the remarks by Ilan Asia, Granot claimed he was not sure whether the wars broke out because of the Palestinian problem, but it was clear to him that peace would not be achieved without a solution to the Palestinian problem. [passage omitted]

Submits No-Confidence Motion

TA091455 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] A few minutes ago, MAPAM submitted a no-confidence motion over the Israel Broadcasting Authority strike. Our Knesset correspondent reports that MAPAM charged the government with responsibility for silencing the radio and television. The motion will be discussed this week.

'Aql Hamiyah Resigns as Amal Military Leader

NC091459 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] 'Aql Hamiyah has resigned his post as the Amal Movement's military leader. His resignation was contained in a statement that he addressed to all the strugglers for the deprived. He said that he will only be one of them from now on.

Hamiyah Denies Resignation

NC101526 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Nov 87

[Text] 'Aql Hamiyah, the Amal Movement's military leader, has dismissed media reports about his resignation. He said that these reports are completely baseless. Hamiyah also denied that he is in dispute with the leader of the Amal Movement.

Hizballah Warns Summit on Contradicting Islam

NC090857 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] The pro-Iranian Hizballah has accused the Amman summit meeting of attempting to provide legitimacy to what it called U.S. aggressive acts against Iran. It warned the summit against passing any resolutions which contradict Islam.

In Beirut, the Imam al-Sadr Partisans Organization [Munazzamat Ansar al-Imam al-Sadr] has asked the Arab heads of states meeting in Amman to boycott Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi until he releases Imam Musa al-Sadr. The group addressed a memorandum to the summit, saying that Al-Qadhdhafi has been holding Al-Sadr prisoner since August 1978 and that he never explained his motives for such an action.

Al-Huss Memorandum Rejected as Official Document

NC091754 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] It was learned from sources at the Amman summit today that the memorandum, which was signed in the name of acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and which Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi had taken with him to Amman, has not been circulated at the summit. It has not been accepted as an official document.

Al-Rasi Denies Report

NC100939 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 10 Nov 87

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss received [Interior Minister] 'Abdallah al-Rasi, today. After the meeting Al-Rasi said: I briefed Prime Minister al-Huss on the Arab summit in Amman in light of the task he had assigned me; namely, to hand over his memorandum to the Arab kings and presidents participating in the summit.

When asked about a report carried by some radios that the memorandum was not circulated at the conference, Al-Rasi said: This is not true. The memorandum has reached all the kings and presidents.

Labor Strike, Demonstrations Continue in Beirut

NC091100 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] In response to the General Labor Federation's call for escalating the open-ended strike by staging comprehensive popular demonstrations, several such demonstrations took place in both sectors of Beirut and its southern suburb this morning.

In West Beirut, marches began from the areas of Wata al-Musaytibah, Picadilli, Mar Ilyas, and Bristol. The demonstrators were estimated to number 6,000. In East Beirut, marches commenced from the area of Al-Salumi in the direction of Sinn al-Fil. People were seen gathering in the Chevrolet area. Processions were also staged in Jubayl and Juniyah.

Meanwhile, demonstrations also set out from Hayy al-Sullum, Al-Ma'murah, and Bi'r al-'Abd in Beirut's southern suburb. Another demonstration took off from the airport traffic circle toward Shatila. The demonstrators will meet outside the Health Ministry building.

Following the demonstrations, the General Labor Federation Executive Council will hold a meeting today to define its final stand on whether the strike should continue or be suspended, in light of the contacts held yesterday with acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and other politicians and parliamentarians.

Bisharah Addresses Strikers

NC091415 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Tens of thousands of demonstrators from both East and West Beirut marched to the museum, the military court, and Mansur Palace today to demand better living conditions. They carried placards that called on officials to act more vigorously toward this end. At one point, the Amal Movement is said to have obstructed the demonstrators on Corniche al-Mazra'ah.

Antoine Bisharah, chairman of the Trade Union Federation, told the crowds of demonstrators that an emergency committee should be formed to run the country and that the workers deserve an effective leadership. He said that public servants are not supposed to ignore the interests of the people and stay in office. He reiterated his call for united and peaceful action by the labor unions.

After giving his speech, Bisharah met with other unionists to discuss the outcome of the strike and to decide on a future course of action.

Cable Sent to Amman Summit

NC091508 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Demonstrators in Tripoli today cabled the Arab heads of state meeting in Amman, saying:

We are meeting and demonstrating today to protest the policy of starvation practiced against us by the Lebanese regime, which came to power under the umbrella of the Israeli tanks.

The message urges the Arab leaders to become fully acquainted with the real situation in Lebanon. Amin al-Jumayyil should not be recognized as a legitimate representative of Lebanon and its people. He is the executioner of the Lebanese people, shedding crocodile tears for them, the message adds.

The majority of people, the message asserts, have lost confidence in Amin al-Jumayyil's plans. Tripoli is the city of the martyr Rashid Karami who was murdered by the hired Ja'ja' gangs. Al-Jumayyil is now trying to bury the incriminating evidence in a blatant fashion, in ways that have become exposed to all. We in this city of Tripoli now have absolutely no means left of maintaining a dignified existence under this regime based on conspiracy, the message concludes.

General Strike Suspended

NC091605 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] According to reports received a short time ago, the Trade Union Federation's Central Council decided at the conclusion of its meeting today to suspend the strike.

First Phase of Camps Agreement Implemented

Building Supplies Delivered

NC091537 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Attorney Haytham Jum'ah, member of the Amal Movement's Political Bureau, has announced that the first phase of the 11 September agreement [on the camps war] was implemented today. He added that building materials were brought into the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps today.

Attorney Jum'ah went on to say that what remains now is to implement the mechanism agreed upon. A final resolution of the camps issue could be attained through the withdrawal [of Palestinians] from areas east of Sidon, he stated. He noted that this withdrawal is scheduled to go into effect on 10 November.

Palestinians To Withdraw

NC092023 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] The unified Palestinian delegation has decided to withdraw a battalion from east of Sidon within the next few hours. This step comes in response to the positive measure represented by the building materials that were taken into the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps.

Israelis Send Armored Force to Al-Biqa', Jazzin

NC091853 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] According to our correspondent in Hasbayya, the Israeli occupation forces sent an armored force consisting of heavy tanks and some 400 troops to Marj 'Uyun, Bint Jubayl, and the ridges overlooking the western Al-Biqa' and Jazzin this afternoon, deploying the force in areas adjacent to the agent militia's positions.

The Israeli reinforcements are being sent to these areas in the wake of the painful blows that the Islamic resistance has been dealing to the enemy and his agents in the occupied border area.

Ambassador to France Submits Resignation 5 Nov

NC100949 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 10 Nov 87

[Text] Amir Faruq Abual-Lam', Lebanese ambassador to Paris, submitted his resignation to president Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss last Thursday.

In a report from the French capital, the newspaper *Al-Nahar* says that in spite of a request from President al-Jumayyil to reconsider, he insisted on resigning. Abu al-Lam' will return to Lebanon at the beginning of 1988.

It is known that Ambassador Abu al-Lam' had earlier expressed his readiness to declare his own candidacy for the presidency.

Chirac's Remarks on Jews Elicit 'Strong Regret'

JN051252 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Nov 87

[Text] At noon today, Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur summoned Alain Grenier, the French ambassador to Damascus. He informed Grenier of the Syrian Arab Republic's surprise and strong regret over statements made by French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac during his visit to the Israeli entity. Chirac's comments concerned what he termed the question of Jews in Syria.

Shakkur stressed that all Syrian citizens enjoy equal rights and responsibilities without discrimination.

MENA: Cabinet Reshuffle Result of Coup Plot

NC071541 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—The Egyptian magazine *Uktubar* reports that Syrian officials have discovered a revolutionary cell in the Air Force that included 70 officers and was on the verge of attempting a coup.

In a news analysis published in its Sunday [8 November] edition, the magazine writes that the head of the National Security Office—who has been appointed Syrian ambassador to Moscow and was replaced by Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, the prime minister forced to resign—knew of this coup but remained silent for some time. The magazine adds that the discovery of this revolutionary cell was one reason for the recent changes in the Syrian Government.

Uktubar points out that the claim that these changes were a blow to corruption is merely an attempt to put a good face on the regime and improve its domestic image following a wave of demonstrations in major cities protesting shortages of bread, sugar, and tea.

In its analysis, the magazine stresses that these changes in Syria are a message to the Arab summit. This summit coincides with the end of the 10-year period in which participants in the Baghdad summit pledged to provide support to Syria to confront Israel. The support totaled $1.85 billion a year. According to the magazine, this message may free Syria from even discussing the continuation or discontinuation of the support and limit discussions on increasing it.

Al-Asad Greets Soviets on GOSR Anniversary

JN061800 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Nov 87

["Text" of cable from President Hafiz al-Asad to the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution; date not given]

[Text] CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Moscow:

On the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution [GOSR], it gives me great pleasure to extend to you and the friendly Soviet people the sincerest congratulations and warmest greetings on behalf of the Syrian Arab people, myself, and the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

By founding the first socialist state in the world, the October Revolution marked a watershed in human history. Through its principles and actions, it has contributed to the liberation struggle of those who have suffered from colonialism. Inspired by these principles, the Soviet Union has extended assistance to the peoples battling colonialism and exploitation, and striving for freedom, independence, and self-determination. Over the past 70 years, the October Revolution has been rich in major achievements that have enhanced the standing of the USSR.

I take this opportunity to note the depth of Syrian-Soviet friendship and cooperation bolstered by a long march of joint effort and mutual trust. I also wish the USSR continued success and further achievements.

Dear comrades, please accept my best wishes of health and happiness.

[Signed] Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic

Bangladesh

Government, Opposition Prepare for 'Siege'

Minister Outlines Plans

BK091648 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] The government has reiterated its commitment to maintain peace and order and ensure protection of life and property of the citizens in the face of the opposition program tomorrow. Briefing newsmen in Dhaka this evening, the deputy prime minister, Prof Abdul Matin, who is also in charge of home affairs, said life in the metropolis today was by and large peaceful except for some minor incidents. Explaining the purpose of the prohibitory order now in force, he said the aim is to prevent disorder and preserve public security.

Explaining the closure of universities and colleges in Dhaka, he referred to Saturday's incidents before the Press Club, in which a student was killed. Hence, arose the need for keeping the students away from disturbances so that their lives were not in danger, he added. Replying to a question, he disclosed so far 1,146 people have been apprehended to ensure public order and safety. These include five opposition members of Parliament detained under the Special Powers Act.

Recalling the 2-week program launched by the opposition on the 24 October last, the home minister maintained all these programs, including the so-called siege of DC's [Dhaka city's] offices, had ended in a fiasco and tomorrow's program, he hoped, will also meet the same fate. He said all government offices shall remain open tomorrow and he expected 100 percent attendance in all of them.

Earlier, the deputy prime minister held a meeting with the members of the law enforcing agencies to discuss law and order situation of the country, especially in the capital city. The home minister called upon all concerned to observe strict vigilance against the lawbreakers and the activities contrary to peaceful urban life. He asked them to render utmost cooperation to agencies concerned for proper maintenance of law and order. The meeting was attended, among others, by Jute Minister Zafar Imam, State Minister for Work Sheikh Shahidul Islam, and (?Whip) (Zuhulameen Houlada).

'Group Meetings' Held

BK091304 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] In Bangladesh, the opposition parties today defied a ban on public meetings. Hundreds of opposition leaders held group meetings to urge people to join tomorrow's Dhaka siege program. The government has banned all demonstrations for a week. Additional paramilitary forces and police have been employed in the capital.

Opposition Leaders Injured

BK091519 Hong Kong AFP in English
1501 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 9 (AFP)—Opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia was slightly hurt during a protest march here Monday as the authorities tightened security on the eve of an opposition "siege" of Dhaka aimed at ousting the government.

Eyewitnesses and sources in Begum Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) said the opposition leader was injured when police used batons and tear gas to disperse a group of militant student marchers.

The incident followed repeated attempts by the marchers to break through a police cordon and move towards Dhaka's press club.

Party sources said Begum Zia suffered bruises after splinters from a tear gas shell hit her right ankle.

They added that about a dozen other opposition leaders, including former Deputy Premier Badruddoza Chowdhury and Secretary General of the BNP and former Minister Obaidur Rahman, were also hurt, mostly by batons wielded by police.

They were taken to the Press Club for first aid treatment.

Police sources said several policemen were injured, and alleged that some of the estimated 2,000 marchers had lobbed crackers and homemade bombs at them.

Meanwhile, armed police and paramilitary troops began street patrols and tightened security Monday on the eve of the opposition "siege" of Dhaka aimed at forcing the government to step down.

Security forces, including paramilitary troops in open trucks, moved through the capital Monday to enforce a week-long ban on meetings and rallies here announced later Sunday by the metropolitan police, witnesses said.

Press reports said police had arrested some 200 opposition activists in pre-emptive raids here Saturday and Sunday ahead of Tuesday's siege, which the opposition said would block major streets of the capital.

Home Minister Abdul Matin told a press conference late Monday the government was committed to ensuring peace and security and said some 6,000 police and paramilitary forces would be on duty to maintain law and order here Tuesday.

He added that the authorities had rounded up 1,146 people around the country in the past two weeks in connection with planned opposition agitation.

The opposition has put the figure at more than 5,000 and said hundreds of buses and trucks had been requisitioned by the authorities to prevent people coming to Dhaka for Tuesday's siege.

The main opposition groups have rejected the ban on meetings and rallies, which covers assemblies of more than five people as well as the carrying of weapons, as "illegal" and vowed to go ahead with the siege "come what may."

The government has declared the opposition's planned siege as "unlawful" and warned that those campaigning or publicising it would face stern legal action.

Opposition leaders Sheikh Hasina Wajed and Begum Zia have put aside their differences to organize the siege.

Correspondents said Sheikh Hasina, leader of the eight-party Awami League, had ignored the ban Monday and led a march of several hundred people in old Dhaka. She was stopped by police but there were no incidents, they said.

Before Monday's march Begum Zia told a rally of some 2,000 student supporters near Dhaka University that the "illegal and autocratic government" of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad could never silence the opposition through arrests and oppression.

Begum Zia, who met earlier Monday with Sheikh Hasina, condemned the ban on political meetings and processions as "undemocratic," and said Tuesday's "siege" would go ahead as planned.

11 Policemen Injured

BK100150 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 10 Nov 87

[Text] A press release of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police says 11 policemen on duty were injured yesterday when some unruly youths pelted stones and threw bombs on them near Curzon Hall. It says BNP chairman Begum Khaleda Zia and other leaders proceeded to the Shahid Minar along with 400 to 500 students belonging to Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal [Nationalist Students Organization] to hold a meeting there yesterday afternoon in violation of the government ban. The policemen on duty there stopped them and requested them not to hold the meeting in view of the government ban on meetings, rallies, and processions. At one stage of the police request, Begum Khaleda Zia and other leaders, along with the accompanying students and supporters, moved from the Shahid Minar premises toward Dhaka University campus. After some time, they proceeded toward the Press Club from the Teacher-Student Center to the Curzon Hall Road. The police stopped them there and repeatedly requested them not to violate the government restrictions. But Begum Khaleda Zia and other leaders, along with their companions, tried to reach the Press Club by any means. Some youths from the procession became unruly and pelted stones and threw a few bombs at the policemen on duty. As a result, 11 policemen were injured. At this stage, with a view to dispersing the unlawful gathering, police used tear gas and resorted to a mild lathi [baton] charge.

In another incident, some 200 persons gathered in front of the Awami League office at Banga Bandhu Avenue and chanted slogans and tried to bring out a procession in violation of the government ban. The police on duty urged them to desist from unlawful activities, but those persons ignored the police request and threw brickbats at the police, who were then compelled to resort to mild lathi charge to disperse the gathering. A section of the gathering then set fire to and burned a jeep belonging to the Works Department on the north-south road. At this stage, the police arrested 48 persons and recovered 3 live bombs and huge quantity of clubs and sticks from the Awami League office.

'Siege of Dhaka' Reportedly Begins 10 Nov

BK100514 Hong Kong AFP in English
0448 GMT 10 Nov 87

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 10 (AFP)—Protesters set fire to a government-owned bus amid rising tension in the Bangladesh capital Tuesday as an opposition "siege" of Dhaka began in a bid to force the government to step down.

The paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) patrolled the city Tuesday aboard lorries fitted with machine-guns, witnesses said, but apart from them the streets were virtually deserted.

Early Tuesday police said they raided the headquarters of the pro-Moscow Communist Party (PCB) and arrested 13 people before the party could stage a planned procession.

Party activists resisted arrest and threw Molotov cocktails, they added.

A series of explosions rocked the capital overnight and early Tuesday, but they were said to be mainly due to powerful firecrackers and there were no immediate reports of casualties.

Dhaka was virtually deserted Tuesday, apart from police patrols and a few government-run buses, with shops closed, residents said.

The government has declared the opposition "siege" of the capital Tuesday illegal and announced a week-long ban on rallies and other gatherings.

The "siege" has been called by the major opposition parties in a bid to force the ouster of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and his six-year old regime.

The aim is to blockade major roads into the capital and government offices here to paralyse the administration, but there were no signs of road barricades or pickets by the three major opposition groupings which called the "siege," residents said.

The government has declared the opposition action illegal, and imposed a week-long ban which began Monday on political meetings and rallies, assembies of more than five people and carrying of arms.

The opposition rejected the ban as a curb on the peoples' democratic rights and vowed to go ahead with their planned action until the fall of the Ershad government.

Two major opposition groups, the eight-party alliance headed by the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed and the seven-party alliance dominated by the Bangladesh National Party (BNP) of Begum Khaleda Zia, held rallies and processions in Dhaka Monday in defiance of the ban.

Begum Zia and a dozen BNP leaders and 11 police were injured when police used batons and teargas to break up a march.

Police said that they raided the central Awami League office late Monday and arrested 48 people and recovered three bombs and other weapons.

Party sources claimed that about 250 people were arrested, and denied that any bombs were found.

Both Sheikh Hasina and Begum Zia were due to address rallies in defiance of the government ban in Dhaka later Tuesday, opposition sources said.

Home Minister Abdul Matin told a press conference Monday that the government was committed to ensuring peace and security and said some 6,000 police and paramilitary forces would be on duty to maintain law and order here Tuesday.

He said that up to 1,146 people were rounded up in nationwide police swoops in the past two weeks.

The opposition had earlier claimed that more than 5,000 of their leaders and supporters had been arrested in a bid to pre-empt the planned siege.

At least two people were killed and several injured in Dhaka and Chittagong Sunday and Monday when bombs they were making exploded, police said Tuesday.

BBC Reports On Situation

BK100400 London BBC World Service in English 0015 GMT 10 Nov 87

[From "Radio Newsreel" Program]

[Text] A big security operation is underway in the capital of Bangladesh to prevent an anti-government demonstration, which the organizers have called the siege of Dhaka. Thousands of troops and police have been deployed and many people have been detained ahead of the demonstration. Our correspondent Mark Tully is in Dhaka:

[Begin Tully recording] The government admits that more than 1,100 people have been arrested, including 5 members of Parliament. The opposition parties say that thousands of their supporters have been taken into custody. A ban on all gatherings of more than five people has been imposed. The opposition parties plan to prevent people entering the areas of the city, where the main government offices and buildings are sited, and the commercial center. President Ershad has told foreign journalists that this too will fail. He said he has driven around some of the markets himself and found that most people have left Dhaka.

The opposition were hoping to bring in large numbers of their supporters for the siege, but road, rail, and river service have been severely cut back. The government maintains this is not being done on official instructions, but addressing a meeting on the eve of the siege, Begum Khaleda Zia, the leader of one of the two main opposition parties—the Bangladesh Nationalist Party—accused the government itself of laying siege to Dhaka by cutting off the transport services. She and Sheikh Hasina, the leader of the other main opposition party—the Awami League—who also held meetings in defiance of the government ban on them, appealed to the police not to fight the people.

Meetings on the eve of the siege led to one clash with the police, but it was a comparatively minor attack. The police handling of the deliberate flouting of the ban on meetings on the eve of the siege indicates that they are under orders to try persuasion first and force only as the last measure during the siege itself. President Ershad told foreign journalists that he knew the opposition strategy would be to provoke incidents and then call protest strikes and agitations. Judging by the size of the opposition meetings on the eve of the siege, it seems unlikely that large numbers of people will attempt to seal off the center of Dhaka. [end recording]

Police Shoot 4 Protestors

BK100910 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 10 Nov 87

[Text] In Bangladesh, police shot dead four protestors in Dhaka today and injured several others during mass opposition demonstrations. The agitating crowds were

demanding the resignation of President Ershad. The police say they opened fire on several thousand demonstrators who tried to storm the main government office in the capital. Opposition members said six people were killed. The marchers were following a jeep carrying the opposition's main leader, Sheikh Hasina, to a rally in the city center where about 15,000 people had gathered.

Police also ransacked the central office of the Awami League and arrested at least 200 party leaders and workers from its premises in Dhaka last night.

6 Demonstrators Dead

BK100957 Hong Kong AFP in English
0943 GMT 10 Nov 87

[By Golam Tahaboor]

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 10 (AFP)—At least six people were killed here Tuesday when police opened fire on anti-government demonstrators defying a ban on street protests, Bangladeshi opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed said.

Explosions, shooting and tear gas rocked the capital as police fought pitched battles with thousands of opposition activists calling for the government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad to resign, witnesses said.

Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury told *Agence France-Presse* the government was closely watching the situation before taking further action.

Sheikh Hasina told journalists of the deaths after leading a demonstration by her Awami League in the Gulistan area. She said the opposition was calling a general strike in Dhaka Wednesday and nationwide Thursday in protest.

Mr. Chowdhury declined to confirm or deny the reports of the police opening fire and killing people.

A hospital doctor here said nine people were admitted with injuries, seven of them with bullet wounds. Hospital sources and witnesses said the injured came from the Gulistan and Purana Paltan areas, where police opened fire on protestors after failing to contain them with baton charges and tear gas.

One of the injured was a young girl who was hurt in an explosion.

Explosions and shooting erupted in the Motijheel district of the capital after Begum Khaleda Zia, head of the Bangladesh National Party, addressed a huge crowd and led a procession, witnesses said. Police fired on demonstrators, who fought with sticks and petrol bombs.

Witnesses said bombs were thrown at the demonstrators as the procession was passing in front of the city office of Mr. Ershad's ruling Jatiya Party.

There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Immediately afterwards, demonstrators went on the rampage in the Motijheel district, where most of Dhaka's banks, trading houses and private firms are located, witnesses said.

A huge crane was set alight near the U.S. Embassy, windows were broken in the state-owned bus corporation building also housing the Pan American Airlines office, and a crowd damaged exterior lights on the industrial bank building housing the AFP office.

Huge plumes of smoke could be seen over the Purana Paltan area, where a mob set fire to a government building housing a post office, witnesses said.

Protestors also set fire to several government vehicles, including a police jeep, they added.

Other opposition parties, as well as the Awami League, have called for a general strike Wednesday, saying it may continue until the government resigns. Kamal Hussain, a senior Awami League leader and former foreign minister, said the government was treating the masses as its enemy and firing on them indiscriminately.

On Sunday, 22 leading Bangladeshi citizens appealed to the government to avert the "path of confrontation and bloodshed" and accept the popular wishes of the people expressed through the current opposition campaign.

The opposition has been demanding that Mr. Ershad and his six-year-old government resign and hand power to a neutral, caretaker government that would conduct a general election within 90 days.

The 22 include retired judges, former bureaucrats and ministers and poets. They said the political crisis the nation now faces could be overcome by holding fresh elections under a non-partisan government acceptable to opposition parties and groups now spearheading the anti-Ershad movement.

India

Extension of President's Rule in Punjab Debated

BK061325 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Text] The home minister today sought Parliament's approval of the statutory resolution seeking continuance of president's rule in Punjab for another 6 months. The president's rule promulgated in the state on the 11th May this year is due to expire on the 10th, or Tuesday. Moving his resolution in the Lok Sabha, Mr Buta Singh said there is a discernible improvement in the law and order situation in Punjab. He said that the government is of the view that if a popular government is restored now, the present firmness will go and the people will be

thrown into a state of nervousness and disarray. Moreover, there is no person who can possibly lead any government effectively in the present condition with any firmness or determination.

During the inconclusive debate, the ruling party members said there has been definite improvement in the situation after the promulgation of president's rule. The opposition members pleaded for an early political situation to the Punjab problem.

Parliament Discusses Issue

BK091634 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] The Lok Sabha has approved the continuance of president's rule in Punjab for another 6 months from Wednesday [11 November]. The House today adopted a statutory resolution to this effect moved by the home minister, Mr Buta Singh.

Replying to the discussion, the home minister rejected the demand for a political dialogue with the Panthic [Sikh religious] Committee to resolve the Punjab issue. He said the demand is being made by persons who have not realized the gravity of the situation. The Panthic Committee has grabbed all the powers of the SGPC, including the power to appoint head priests. Every member of the committee is having close links with the anti-national elements getting money from abroad and misleading young people to get terrorist training. Mr Buta Singh asserted that the government will never have any talks with killers.

About the situation in the state, the home minister said during the last 6 months of president's rule the situation has improved and a number of notorious terrorists have either been eliminated or arrested. Mr Buta Singh appreciated the Punjab police for effectively dealing with the terrorists. Most of the terrorists and their hideouts have been identified and a strict vigil is kept. The state government has also taken several steps to rehabilitate the migrant families who are going back to Punjab.

Earlier, during the discussion in the House, while ruling party members supported the resolution seeking extension of president's rule in Punjab, the opposition members opposed it. Most ruling party members were of the view that the time is not appropriate to restore popular rule in the state. The opposition members urged the government to initiate a political process to solve the problem.

In the Rajya Sabha, participating in the discussion on the issue, the treasury benches pointed out that, at present, faction fighting is complicating the situation and it will not be prudent to hold an election. The opposition members alleged that the government has not made any serious effort to find a political solution to this grave national issue. They wanted to know the reason for extension of president's rule if the government claims improvement in the situation.

The discussion will continue.

President's Rule Extended

BK101309 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 10 Nov 87

[Text] Parliament has approved the extension of president's rule in Punjab for another 6 months from tomorrow. The Rajya Sabha today adopted a statutory resolution to this effect. The Lok Sabha has already passed a resolution.

Replying to the debate on the resolution, the minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, ruled out any talks with the Panthic Committee, whom he described as a usurper of authority and an agent of imperialism. He said the government cannot have any negotiations with a body that does not recognize the Indian Constitution.

Referring to the demand of some opposition members for installation of a popular government in the state, Mr Chidambaram said that at present there is no party which can claim to represent the popular will. Mr Chidambaram reaffirmed the government's resolve to find a political solution to the Punjab problem.

Gandhi Briefs Parliament on Sri Lanka Situation

BK091252 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] The prime minister told the Lok Sabha today that President Jayewardene has given him a firm assurance that, if necessary, changes will be made in the two bills on setting up the provincial administrative councils and devolution of power to meet the aspirations of the Tamil population in Sri Lanka. Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Mr Jayewardene held extensive consultations in Kathmandu and in New Delhi on the expeditious implementation of the India-Sri Lankan agreement.

Making a statement in the House, Mr Gandhi said it was in the national interest to send the peacekeeping force to Sri Lanka and he sought the support and cooperation of all sections of the House for the agreement. He said the long-term peace in Sri Lanka hinges on the implementation of the India-Sri Lankan agreement.

Mr Gandhi said the peacekeeping force has conducted itself in exemplary manner and he asked the House to join him in paying tribute to our gallant Armed Forces.

He regretted that the LTTE went back on its word time and again and indulged in violence and killings. He said President Jayewardene has already agreed to grant amnesty if the LTTE lays down arms and supports the agreement.

About the return of the Sri Lankan refugees to their homes, Mr Gandhi said the Sri Lankan Government has agreed to cooperate on this.

In Sri Lanka, road traffic between Trincomalee and Jaffna Peninsula has been resumed. A defense press release issued in Madras says a convoy of 137 peacekeeping force vehicles has arrived in Jaffna from Trincomalee. Civilian vehicles are expected to start plying between these two points shortly. The peacekeeping force has also restored water supply and the sewerage system in the Jaffna hospital.

Gandhi Comments on Tamils

BK091625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, told the Rajya Sabha that the peacekeeping force will announce a cease-fire the moment the LTTE expresses willingness to come along with the India-Sri Lankan agreement and surrender arms. The prime minister categorically stated in the House today that there is no point in the LTTE sending messages to New Delhi or Tamil Nadu for a cease-fire. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was giving clarifications on the points raised by members on his statement on the implementation of the India-Sri Lankan agreement.

The prime minister strongly repudiated the charge that the Tamil Nadu government had helped the LTTE in carrying out such violent activities. He made it clear that the state government has only been helping Tamil refugees and providing assistance in the humanitarian cause.

Referring to his talks with President Jayewardene, Mr Gandhi said that the proposed legislation of the Sri Lankan Government on devolution of power was extensively discussed. Some of the provisions of the legislation do not fully meet Tamil aspirations. Mr Gandhi said there is a firm assurance from Sri Lanka that if there are difficulties, suitable changes in the legislation will be made. He said the India-Sri Lankan agreement fulfills every single aspiration of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. The only thing that has not been agreed to and will never be agreed to by India is the creation of a separate Eelam [Tamil homeland]. Mr Gandhi said: We will not like a country so close to us should disintegrate on ethnic lines. He said the agreement which has been acclaimed internationally will be of universal benefit.

Mr Gandhi asserted that there are absolutely no differences between the center and the Tamil Nadu government on the steps taken for the implementation of the India-Sri Lankan agreement. We have kept the state chief minister in the picture right from the beginning.

The prime minister strongly reacted to the insinuation of an opposition member that the agreement was reached under foreign pressure. Mr Gandhi asserted that India does not act under pressure.

Earlier, making a suo Marte statements in both the Houses, Mr Gandhi said India has made a major effort to restore civil supplies, amenities, and administration in Jaffna. Shiploads of essential food and other supplies have been sent to Kankesanthurai port. Relief convoys have been sent to Jaffna even though the LTTE continues to attack these humanitarian missions.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi this evening that operations to disarm LTTE continue in the northern province of Jaffna. Eighteen LTTE men were killed and 14 apprehended during the last 24 hours. Twelve of the killed were in Manippai. The killed include a hard-core LTTE leader, Mr Passilan, and his assistant, Mr Kalidasan. Among those apprehended is another LTTE hard core, Mr Sunanthan. The peacekeeping force has recovered arms and ammunition. The situation in Jaffna is fast returning to normal.

Iran

2-Day 'Islamic Unity' Conference Held in Tehran

Khamene'i Delivers Opening Speech

LD070956 Tehran IRNA in English 0939 GMT 7 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—The two-day 'Islamic Unity' Conference opened at Tehran University Saturday morning with an inaguarating speech by President 'Ali Khamene'i.

Addressing the conference the president stressed the need for unity in Islamic community, ways of attaining it and avoiding discord and schism.

Further in his speech President Khamene'i referred to hostile policies of enemies of Islam in sowing discord among Muslims and said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been a pioneer in creating unity among various sects of Islam.

On responsibility of Shi'ite and Sunni intellectuals in creating unity, the president said that the key to unity was honesty and putting unified goals above sectarian objectives. He described radical nationalism as one of the obstacles for unity adding that while Islam attached no value on language, race and geographical location, certain policies were being promoted to highlight such differences.

The president rejected pan-Arabism, pan-Iranism, and any similar tendencies calling them as detrimental to Islam, stressing that all Muslims could live and work in peace with one another as brothers.

In another part of his speech President Khamene'i said that the newly born 'Wahabism' is an obstacle on the way of unity. The president said that Islam posed the most

serious danger on imperialism and added that events of post-revolutionary Iran show that Islam is the cause of anmity of the oppressors towards the Islamic Republic.

The presence of American naval forces in the Persian Gulf, he told the conference, is a sign of U.S. hostility towards Islam and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Neither the Iranian nation nor the authorities are scared of animosities of the oppressors, said the president stressing that Iran will emerge triumphant in future.

The conference is attended by a large group of Shi'ite and Sunni scholars who are to discuss the Islamic community issues, problems on the way of unity of Muslims, role of the Islamic Revolution of Iran in strengthening Islamic unity and the July 31 massacre of the hajj pilgrims in Mecca.

Musavi Addresses Conference

LD090239 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Text] The Islamic Unity Conference, attended by 400 Shi'ite and Sunni clergymen and ulema from home and abroad, ended its work on Sunday by issuing a resolution. Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi made a speech at the closing ceremony. According to our correspondent's report, in his speech, the prime minister, while offering congratulations on the prophet Mohammad's birthday, may God's salutations and blessing be upon him, and on the occasion of unity week, enumerated the reasons behind divisions among Muslims and spoke in detail about the experience of Islamic Iran and the progress of the Islamic revolution toward unity.

The prime minister referred to the plots of arrogance to eliminate religion and promote nationalism as the main factors for this division and said: These conspiracies are so extensive that they have taken away the entire Islamic culture from the Muslims and have even made the Muslims pursue Western culture in their daily routines.

Referring to the Islamic bazaar, which was a factor of unity among Muslims before the domination of the West, the prime minister said: Today the superpowers, by dominating the world of Islam and Muslim countries, have separated them from each other to the extent that each Islamic state buys from other Islamic states through European middlemen. Because of this, the economies of every Islamic state depends on the European economy.

Afterwards, the prime minister spoke in detail on the achievements of the Islamic revolution in the fight against the eradication of religion and on promoting unity between Shi'ites and Sunnis.

Our correspondent reports that after the closing ceremony, the resolution of the Islamic Unity Conference was issued. The resolution extends congratulations on the birthday of the last of the prophets, the noble apostle of God, may God's salutations and blessings be upon him, and stresses the need for the leadership of the imam of the ummah among world Muslims. It expresses support for the deputy leader, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, and declares its disavowal of the infidels and their supporters—particularly the Al Sa'ud and the duped Wahhabi faction—reiterates support for continuing the war against the blasphemous Saddamists, and stresses the need for going to the battlefronts. The resolution condemns the impudent aggression of the United States in the Persian Gulf. While inviting all Islamic sects of the world to unite for greater solidarity, the resolution expresses support for the liberation movements, particularly in Lebanon, Palestine, and Afghanistan; and condemns colonial conferences which are held under the name of Islam and Arabism.

The resolution also recommends that the Islamic Unity Conference be held regularly so as to publish books and articles on unity and to strengthen links between the Shi'ite and Sunni seminaries.

12-Point Resolution Issued

LD090715 Tehran IRNA in English 0708 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—The two-day 'Unity Conference' ended here Sunday night by issuing a 12-point resolution calling for formation of a council composed of committed ulema to run the affairs of the holy shrines of Muslims.

The resolution by a large of number of Iranian and foreign ulema and Islamic scholars attending the conference also condemned the July 31 massacre of hajj pilgrims in holy Mecca. The Al Sa'ud family, it stressed, are traitors to Islam and Muslims and must be removed from power and running the holy shrines.

Calling on Muslims to unite and appealing to them to avoid discord, the resolution warned against any violation of Muslims' rights stressing that such aggression will be encountered severely.

Pledging support for Islamic liberation movements, the resolution deplored crimes and aggression of Eastern and Western bloc powers against Muslim countries including U.S. aggression in the Persian Gulf.

It called for continuation of the Iraqi-imposed war until downfall of the Iraqi regime and condemned Iraqi massacre of ulema inside Iraq, bombardment of Iranian civilian areas and chemical bombardment of Iraqi Kurdish population. It urged international bodies to stop Iraqi regime's atrocities and investigate its crimes.

At the end the resolution appealed to Islamic writers to avoid publishing matters encouraging sectarianism and avoid issues that may provoke such tendencies.

Radio Commentaries View Events in Tunisia

Islamic Influence Analyzed

LD091503 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Station commentary: "The Start of a New Phase in Tunisia's Islamic Struggle"]

[Text] Following yesterday's events, which put an end to Bourguiba's 30-year rule and, in a series of very hasty moves, placed a Western-educated security expert in the Tunisian presidency, the question of extensive Islamic action in that country has again become one of political interest. The main point in all the discussions is to find the real reasons behind the recent developments in Tunisia and to determine the future course of Islamic movements there.

Various news agencies have provided different explanations for yesterday's events in Tunisia under a number of headlines, ranging from Borguiba's peaceful and legal dismissal to a coup d'etat against him. Although the U.S. and French Governments and certain Arab states accepted the contents of the new government's declaration as the reason for Bourguiba's dismissal, some other sources view the recent events as the product of domestic differences over ways to oppose Islamic movements.

In the new government's first statement, which came from Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the main reason given for Bourguiba's dismissal was his physical disability and the views of physicians on his health. Following this declaration, Hedi Baccouche, the new prime minister, emphasized that Bourguiba's dismissal as president of Tunisia was not a coup d'etat but a case of properly applying the Constitution. In a telephone conversation with French officials, the new prime minister said that in the past few hours, Bourguiba's health had deteriorated visibly, and that seven physicians who went to his bedside issued the medical certificate for his dismissal, in accordance with the Constitution.

Although some Tunisian officials have said that the medical report was not signed by Bourguiba's personal physician, an examination of the prime minister's later remarks can clarify certain points. Hedi Baccouche noted that Bourguiba had decided to revive the question of Islamic fundamentalism and to request summary executions. Thus, it is clear that the matter of Tunisia's Islamic movements was one of the major reasons for developments there. In addition, it is obvious that leading figures in the Tunisian Government were afraid to continue the open suppression of the country's Muslims. This is the best proof of the strength of Tunisia's Islamic movement and its large number of supporters.

Following its initial statement, the new Tunisian Government recalled the Tunisian Parliament to an emergency session for the swearing-in ceremonies. At that meeting, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali took the oath as the new president. This was done despite the fact that the prime minister had already been appointed and the names of his cabinet members carried by the media. Before taking his oath and being confirmed by members of Parliament, all of whom also belong to Tunisia's ruling party, Ben Ali announced in a nationwide speech that Tunisia's Constitution should be revised. It is certain that in the future, the presidency will not be for life. In order to prevent greater opposition, Ben Ali promised that new laws will be passed covering activities of parties and the press. He also confirmed that Tunisia will honor its international commitments and will continue its relations, especially with friendly and fraternal countries, and that it will respect Arab and Islamic solidarity. In a number of telephone calls to leaders of neighboring countries, the new Tunisian president affirmed that policy, and informed sources see the appointment of Hedi Baccouche as prime minister as a step in the same direction. These sources consider Hedi Baccouche as the architect of Tunisia's renewed relations with its neighbors, and as the author of the concept of the Greater Arab Maghreb, which would also include Tunisia.

In any case, the efforts of Tunisia's new government, which is busy receiving hasty confirmation from domestic and foreign sources, demonstrate the growth of movements formed by Muslims in the past year. Indeed, these movements can still create many obstacles to the continuation of Western-oriented action. In light of the fact that Tunisia's new president is a security expert with a long history of suppressing Islamic movements, it seems that new methods will be employed to pervert the Tunisian people's Islamic struggles.

At the same time, members of Tunisia's Islamic Tendency Movement, the leaders of which are now in jail, have issued a statement welcoming Bourguiba's dismissal as a stage in the struggle of Tunisia's Muslim people and a step toward ending a dictatorial era. In its declaration, the Islamic Tendency Movement asked Ben Ali to announce a universal amnesty for its members, and to end the suppression of popular movements by calling general elections.

New Islamic Struggle Seen

NC081200 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0345 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] Finally, following 18 months of extensive unrest in Tunisia, reports of the dismissal of Habib Bourguiba, the life-long president of that country, were dissiminated throughout the world yesterday morning. According to a Tunis radio statement, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the prime minister of Tunisia, has undertaken the presidency and the command of the Tunisian Armed Forces. Subsequent reports stated that, after gaining power, Ben

Ali appointed Hedi Baccouche, one of his ministers, as prime minister, and appointed the Tunisian ambassador to France as the new foreign minister.

When Zine El Abidine Ben Ali—who was for years in charge of the Tunisian Armed Forces' security services—was appointed by Bourguiba as prime minister 35 days ago, political circles forecast an increased suppression of Islamic movements. This forecast was based on the fact that, in past years, whenever the Bourguiba regime faced a problem as a result of the Muslims' extensive struggles, Ben Ali was called in as the major security enforcer. Suppressing Islamic movements in Tunisia in 1983 and heading the Tunisian security organization over the past decade are jobs included in the resume of the new 51-year-old Tunisian president, who completed his studies at the school for advanced studies in security and intelligence in the United States.

Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's appointment as Tunisian prime minister 5 days after the end of the trial of 90 members of the Islamic Tendency Movement concided with the execution of several of its members. Thus, Ben Ali's personal acts began as the major elements specifying Tunisia's new policies.

The extensive unrest of the past 18 months has shown that the Tunisian regime is facing a continued Islamic struggle which Bourguiba's 30 years of experience could not deal with. During this period, Habib Bourguiba did whatever he could to calm the daily Muslim demonstrations. However, not only did these acts fail to help the regime achieve its objectives, but they escalated the Islamic struggle throughout Tunisia. The replacement of Mzali by Rachid Sfar, the extensive arrests, the executions, the suppression of opponents, and the closing down of many Islamic publications were part of the efforts carried out by Bourguiba's 30-year-old regime over the past 18 months in a bid to end the country's unrest. It was under such conditions that the military man Ben Ali was appointed prime minister. By crushing the Islamic movements, he would be able to keep Tunisia under Western influence, just like in the past. However, the great rage of the Muslim Tunisians over Bourguiba's pro-Western policies became the main obstacle to Ben Ali's security steps. It was following a visit by an unofficial American delegation to Tunisia that yesterday morning the Tunisian radio announced Bourguiba's dismissal. Thus, Bourguiba's former friend, a pro-Western military officer, gained Tunisia's highest rank.

On the one hand, Bourguiba's dismissal speaks of the loss of his popularity among his military and civilian supporters in the two ruling organs. On the other hand, it manifests the beginning of a new phase in the Tunisian people's Islamic struggle.

Reportage, Comment on Arab Summit in Amman

Iraq Receives Little Support

LD100747 Tehran IRNA in English 0739 GMT 10 Nov 87

["Arab Summit Offers Little Comfort for Saddam"—IRNA headline]

[Text] London, Nov. 10, IRNA—The Arab League summit entered its third day today with the prospect of the Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn receiving little backing to rescue his ill-conceived war against Iran, according to reports from Amman.

The importance Saddam attached to the conference was underlined by his personal appearance in Amman believed to be his second journey outside Iraq since his invasion of Iran in 1980 and the first publicised in advance.

Reports from the Jordanian capital suggest that he was wanting to curtail his visit owing to the half-hearted support he was receiving and it was only from the personal intervention by King Husayn that averted his walk-out.

According to the London *Financial Times*, Saddam's appeal to the conference is likely to be overtaken by his arch-rival President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria, who, it expects, will play the dominating role in the proceedings.

Instead of contemplating censure because of his country's support of Iran, it suggests that the Syrian leader could well use his relations with Tehran to advantage by arguing that he is best disposed among all the Arab heads to talk with Iran.

The paper saw Al-Asad's case assisted by the presence of Prince 'Abdallah of Saudi Arabia, deputising for King Fahd at the summit. It believed that the prince was pro-Syrian and could well help Damascus.

The conference, as an emergency debate to support the Iraqi regime, was seen to have lost course even before it convened by the defection of King Fahd, the key player in lobbying support for Baghdad.

As the delegations arrived from the 21 Arab League states, the further non-attendance of King Hassan of Morocco was recognised as another body-blow for Saddam and his Western-backers, who had been pressing for united Arab action against Iran.

Jordan's Baghdad Embassy Attacked

LD091112 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad was attacked in the course of revolutionary action by Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries to protest against the Arab summit in Amman. The report notes that parts of the main embassy building were damaged during the operation. After identifying their target, the Muslim revolutionaries opened fire on the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad and then left the area.

Iraqi Amal Group Condemns Summit

LD091638 Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—Iraq's Islamic Amal Organization in a statement published Monday condemned the ongoing Arab summit in Amman for trying to save Saddam Husayn from his doomed fate.

The statement said that such conferences will only make the Iranian and Iraqi nations more determined to continue their jihad (holy war) until the overthrow of the ruling Ba'thist regime in Baghdad.

It also questioned heads of Arab states attending the summit, whether supporting the tottering regime of Iraqi was more important than backing the Palestinian uprising against Zionist usurpers in the occupied lands or countering U.S. aggressions in the Persian Gulf.

The statement warned reactionary regimes ruling Arab states that they will be defeated in the confrontation with the Islamic revolution since Saddam Husayn will undoubtedly be toppled.

No Solutions Expected

LD091625 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Political commentary: "Extraordinary Arab Summit in Jordan"]

[Excerpts] There are many issues to be discussed at the extraordinary Arab summit in Jordan, for which hardly any chance of finding solutions can be surmised. Presidents, kings, and even high-ranking representatives from 20 Arab countries, as well as the president [as heard] of the PLO Executive Committee, met together in an extraordinary session yesterday to discuss the issues and major problems facing the Arab world. [passage omitted] It is not expected that the Amman summit can adopt decisive stands vis-a-vis the problems that must be confronted.

The difference of opinion between Morocco and Algeria over the Sahara issue fans the fire of disunity among the Arab League members. The Amman session is therefore not expected to make decisive decisions about the problems it faces.

With regard to the imposed war, the ultimate fate of Resolution 598 has not yet been determined. Due to the support given to Iran by a major portion of the member countries, the session is not expected to achieve anything other than propaganda, as usual. It will merely call for an end to the war and for both sides to honor Resolution 598. In this connection the severence of relations with Iran, which had previously been proposed by Iraq and the Saudi regime, will also receive no attention.

The Arab League is facing a problem with regard to Lebanon. The Muslim wing which opposes Al-Jumayyil does not consider him eligible to take part in the Amman summit as Lebanon's representative. That is why Salim al-Huss, the acting prime minister of Lebanon, was also asked to attend the gathering so that the balance between the two political factions would be served. Of course, Salim al-Huss declined the invitation and instead sent his interior minister to the Jordanian capital. Informed sources believe that Amin al-Jumayyil's efforts to put pressure on Syria, via Egypt, the UAE or Bahrain, will be fruitless. Therefore, while it is possible for the summit simply to approve immediate financial assistance to Lebanon, its implementation will face difficulties.

With regard to Egypt's return, suffice it to say that the Libyan Government has sent Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud as its representative to the Jordan meeting and the Syrian Government has already issued a warning about discussions on Egypt's return. However, some so-called moderate Arab governments prefer to overlook the issue of Egypt's return, for now, so that the current session will not appear to be too unsuccessful. Despite this fact, and the insistence of some GCC member governments which consider Egypt's absence from the Arab League to be unjustified, it can be surmised that a number of governments, such as the Iraqi regime, the UAE, or Bahrain, will begin individual efforts to resume relations with Egypt after the conclusion of the Amman summit, just as the Jordanian Government did 3 years ago.

Considering the diversity of these issues and the improbability of the Arab summit achieving relative success, it can be said that in addition to Libya, which had already announced that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi would not attend the session, King Fahd and King Hassan II of Morocco have been persuaded not to take part. The Tunisian Government, which is facing a leadership change, as is Mauritania, has decided to send only its foreign minister. The Amman session will merely be the place for private meetings between Arab kings and leaders, and perhaps, at the same time, for reconciliation between some of them.

With regard to the Palestinian issue, which is the most important problem facing the Islamic and Arab world, it is said that Arab leaders will indulge in private talks during the session, so that the final statement is not expected to propose a realistic and clear-cut resolution on fighting the Zionist regime.

Slightly to the north of the Amman session, the combatants of the Organization of Islamic Resistance of Lebanon, one of the groups engaged in fundamental and noble struggle against the Zionists, are constantly engaged in operations which may cause embarrassment to some of the Amman session participants. The simple mention of the second phase of the Islamic Resistance operation, which inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the Zionists, is enough to show that one cannot force an aggressor regime to retreat except through armed battle. On the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, to the west of Amman, Palestinian Muslims have staged strikes, protests and clashes; a Palestinian group has taken eight Zionists hostage.

All that will be done at the extraordinary Arab summit will be speeches that simply consist of pages and pages. What is taking place in southern Lebanon and the occupied and oppressed Palestine, however, is action which makes every Muslim proud.

Summit Termed 'Feeble'

NC091412 Tehran Television Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Arab summit conference convened yesterday in Amman amid extremely tight security. Events took place in that city in September, 1970, during which thousands of Palestinians were killed on shah Husayn's orders. This emergency conference, which is chaired by shah Husayn, is being attended by a number of kings, presidents, and shaykhs of the Arab League member states. Shah Husayn delivered an opening speech which focused, as expected, on the war Iraq has imposed on the Islamic revolution. He claimed that the war threatens Arab and regional security as well as world peace. At the conclusion of his speech, shah Husayn took the trouble of alluding to the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian people's suffering throughout the years of occupation. The king's allusion to Palestine is, obviously, part of a decision previously agreed upon to drag certain Arab presidents, who objected to making the Iran-iraq war the basic and sole topic of the conference, to attend.

The resolutions that will ultimately emerge from this feeble conference, whatever their nature, will not affect the general course of events in the region. This is because the majority of participants in the conference only represent themselves. They lack popular and legal authorization to make decisions that are directly linked to the dignity of the Arabs and Muslims and that stab urgent Islamic and Arab issues with the dagger of imperialism and Zionism.

The conference of shah Husayn and his cohorts is convening at a time when the Islamic world is celebrating unity week for Islamic rapprochement, cohesion, and unison against the enemies of our religion, principles, and existence. The efforts at the conference are concentrated on sowing the seeds of division between Arabs and other Muslims. These efforts seek to widen the bleeding wound in the body of the Islamic nation. The current efforts in the prevailing atmosphere at the conference are to prepare a common ground to return the Egyptian regime to the so-called Arab ranks. What they mean by Arab ranks are the ranks of the reactionary regimes that are allied to imperialism and Zionism and that isolate the Palestinian issue. The Palestinian issue is the basic and essential issue, and as such, must be high on the list of the agenda of all Islamic and Arab summits. It is noticeable that several vital issues that concern the Arab peoples in particular, and the Islamic nation in general, have been shelved at this conference.

Their majesties, excellencies, and highnesses seem to have forgotten that the Egyptian regime continues to insist on complying with the Camp David accord, that humilitating reconciliation treaty with the Zionist enemy. They also seem to have forgotten that they themselves had decided at previous conferences to continue to isolate and boycott that regime as long as it continued to abide by that accord. If the efforts of the conferees in Amman, under the chairmanship of shah Husayn, are sincere, and if their intentions are honest, then they should concentrate on dealing with important issues for which Muslims and Arabs expect urgent and just solutions. In addition to the main and vital Palestinian question, and the need to reach decisions to purge the Palestine land of the nearly 40-year Zionist occupation, there also is the ordeal of Lebanon and the ongoing conflict between the Lebanese and Palestinians. The latter conflict is being fanned by a faction participating in the Amman summit. This faction is encouraging one party against another. If the conference is truly Arab and sincere, and if it represents the peoples, it should settle this fraternal infighting and act to direct rifles against the common enemy that occupies the dear land of Palestine. If intentions are good, the conferees should set their eyes on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and pay attention to the continuing large-scale uprising there. The conferees should approve resolutions that back and support this uprising. If this conference is Arab and sincere, it must view the aggressive colonialist war imposed on the Islamic revolution fairly and justly and not from a bigoted tribal perspective. Such a fair view would force the conference to make a brave decision and name the aggressor and expel him from the conference hall. It would condemn him as a war criminal who started a war against a major Islamic country, which is a strategic and

fateful ally of the Arab peoples and countries and an enemy of their enemies. If the conferees have true intentions, they should take into account the Western Sahara issue, whose people have been struggling to dipose of Hassan II's hegemony for over 10 years.

The chairman of the conference and the reactionary choir forgot that the Persian Gulf, which is replete with Arab and Islamic interests, is not threatened now by the Islamic revolution, the ally of Arabs and Muslims, but by U.S. and NATO fleets. These fleets have been invited in by a group of those participating in the Amman summit conference. If the conference has true intentions, it should call this group to account for their deeds.

In addition to all this, the consciences of honest Arabs, who are loyal to their homeland and cautious about their dignity, homeland, security, and stability in their countries, are troubling them because shah Husayn and midgets like him remain in power. The presence of these at the helm constitutes the main obstacle that prevents the Arab peoples from achieving their aspirations.

Support for Iraq 'Treacherous'

LD091342 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1108 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Station commentary: "Iraq's Mischievous Deeds, a Show for the Arab Summit"]

[Text] By firing two surface-to-surface missiles at Baghdad late yesterday, the Islamic Republic of Iran demonstrated its ability to retaliate to prevent further atrocities by the Iraqi regime, check the spread of the war in the Persian Gulf, and forestall attacks on industrial labor units and nonmilitary targets. The Iraqi regime believes that by launching occasional strikes on industrial and civilian areas, it will change the course of the war in its favor. This action by the Iraqi regime follows its repeated political and military defeats on the battlefield and in international forums. The efforts of reactionary Arab regimes to safeguard the prestige of Baghdad's rulers and to keep the Iraqi regime on its feet to continue its fight against the Islamic Republic of Iran are the treacherous work of the shah Husayn and his ilk.

The extraordinary Arab summit opened in Amman yesterday with a speech from shah Husayn. He opened with a discussion of the possible consequences of the imposed war, noting: This is not a war between Iran and Iraq alone; rather, this conflict threatens the security of the entire region and world peace.

Certain like-minded Arab officials made comments in support of the Baghdad regime before the summit, recommending a halt to the struggle against the regime occupying Qods. The reactionary Arab states have apparently made this the main point on the agenda. In any case, in the first instance, the agenda of the summit is to increase political and military support for the Iraqi regime; the second objective is to create a favorable atmosphere for the rehabilitation of Egypt into the Arab League. The second issue is not separated from the first, in light of the military support the Egyptian regime provides Iraq. In this connection, Chadli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, called before the summit for collective Arab action to bring about the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

The history of popular struggle in the Middle East over the last decade indicates that the reactionary Arab regimes, in their activities, have followed a line parallel to the policies of arrogance. The attack of the Iraqi Armed Forces on the Islamic Republic of Iran and the efforts of the reactionary regimes to support Baghdad, have been calculated plots to cause the liberation movements of the region to deviate and to isolate the struggle of the people of Palestine and Lebanon against the regime occupying Qods.

There were times when an Arab summit would create panic and fear among the Zionists and boost the morale of the Palestinian and Lebanese warriors. At that time, many leaders of the Muslim states considered themselves frontline warriors in the struggle against Israel and the conspiracies of the arrogant powers. The three Arab wars since the creation of the illegitimate regime occupying Qods and its 50-year history witnessed some justified moves by the Arab leaders in line with developments in the Middle East.

However, the current reactionary Arab leaders have concentrated their efforts on supporting the policies of arrogance in the Middle East. They are not ashamed of shaking hands again with the regime of Egypt, which treacherously signed the Camp David accords. Now they are attempting to pave the way for this regime's rehabilitation. In any case, the weak Arab summit is nothing but a move to sidetrack the principled struggle against the Zionist enemy in the region. In their agendas, such traitorous regimes as those of Jordan, Morocco, and their ilk always have tried to deviate discussions from the struggle against the usurping Israel; whereas progressive Arab governments, such as those in Libya and Syria, always have opposed such deviationist moves.

Tehran Views U.S. Navy Commander's Pakistan Trip

LD092148 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1610 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Political commentary: "Islamabad: Political Realism—the Condition for Avoiding Future Dangers"]

[Text] The commander of the U.S. Navy has left for Pakistan on a 5-day official visit. He is supposed to meet and hold talks with Pakistan's president, prime minister, navy commander, and minister of state for defense affairs. No news has yet leaked out with further details of this trip. However, informed sources have said that during the meetings with Pakistan's state and military authorities, the U.S. Navy commander will hold important talks on the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf, as

well as Pakistan's opposition to having the U.S. fleet dock at Karachi port. The U.S. Navy commander apparently intends to convince the Islamabad authorities to grant a logistic base for reinforcement and supply facilities to the U S. warships at Karachi port.

The strategic position of this port and its distance from the crises of the Persian Gulf arena will place greater security and higher logistic capacity at the disposal of the warships. However, the realization of this matter depends on the success of the United States in convincing the Islamabad authorities to accept its request. Islamabad has so far refused to comply with this request. Despite U.S. pressure, it has decided that having the U.S. fleet dock at Karachi port will pose a danger to Pakistan's interests. After granting permission to the U.S. fleet to dock at some Pakistani ports 2 years ago, there were many instances of popular protests and threats throughout Pakistan. As a result, the U.S. warships left Pakistan's shores. Similar potential dangers threatening the Islamabad authorities have forced them to be more cautious in their approach to the facts. Although this matter has undermined U.S.-Pakistani relations, it has nevertheless helped to strengthen the political status of the regime.

At the present juncture, the leaders of Pakistan, bearing in mind future dangerous events—which will appear in Pakistan as an outcome of granting docking facilities to U.S. warships at Karachi port—have refused to comply with Washington's request. Of course, it is not unlikely that during his talks with high-ranking Pakistani officials the U.S. Navy commander might resort to the weapon of intimidation or enticement should he encounter further persistence and failure to convince them. He might even go so far as to threaten to reduce or stop U.S. military and financial aid to Pakistan. In any case, before embarking on any decision the leaders of Pakistan need to thoroughly investigate this problem and its future consequences. In other words, political realism is the condition Islamabad needs to avoid future dangers. Any degree of Pakistani submission in the face of the U.S. request might lead to some uncontrollable reaction, which in no way would serve Pakistan's interest.

The anti-U.S. feeling that strongly exists among Pakistani people, as well as the political, cultural, religious, and moral ties which they have with the Iranian nation, are among the fundamental reasons for the waves of objections that would arise should Islamabad officials bow to the requests made by the United States.

In order to avoid such incidents, therefore, Pakistan must continue to follow its policy of realism.

Journal Notes U.S. Need for New Gulf Initiative

LD100756 Tehran IRNA in English 0747 GMT 10 Nov 87

[Text] London, Nov. 10, IRNA—Without a diplomatic initiative, Washington's military activity against Iran is becoming increasing exposed and could pose further political problems for the Reagan administration, says a report from the U.S. capital.

In a dispatch from Washington, *Middle East International* says that the Reagan administration is facing a difficult diplomatic outlook over Iraq's seven year war against Iran, which could well effect its policy in the Persian Gulf.

The bi-weekly magazine sees the main problem for Washington being the failure of the U.S.-sponsored Security Council Resolution which it says seems to have "stopped dead" over a ceasefire with the consensus among permanent members "deteriorated."

As a result, it feels that the momentum for U.N. sanctions against Iran has been "reduced to a very low point" even though there is widespread agreement that renewal of diplomacy is "essential."

"One basic reason is that diplomacy, not military means, is seen as the key to ending the war," the magazine says. "The second vital reason is that without viable diplomacy to parallel its military projection in the (Persian) Gulf, overall U.S. policy in the area would be seriously weakened."

The paper further wrote that "the Reagan administration has yet to feel the full wrath of an Iranian response" to the destruction of the '*Iran-Ajr*' vessel.

It quoted former security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski as saying there was a "gut feeling" that Iran is now reassessing the belief that it will win the Iraqi imposed war.

The only seemingly consequence of the U.S. and its allies strong position was that "the flow of Arab aid to Iraq could well have begun to disappear."

Middle East International felt that it was the dual U.S. military-diplomatic approach that had been responsible for refusing Congress opposition to Reagan's plans and contrasted it to the one-track military policy pursued in Lebanon which ended so disastrously.

The collapse of U.N. diplomacy, it says, again exposes U.S. policy as "one-legged" and raises problems all around for Reagan and can only conclude from the State Department that another sustained effort will again be made to re-forge a diplomatic consensus against Iran, even if it takes several months.

Joint Staff Issues Communique No 3,015

LD091634 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters in four separate missions bombed an Iraqi military barracks in Irbil Province and enemy troop concentration sites in Sharhani Zubaydah and Heights Number 175 southern sector Monday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy, said a military communique here today.

The 3015th Joint Staff Communique said that the fighters returned safely to bases after the bombing missions which took place at 0810, 0940, 0955 and 1130 hours local time (0440, 0610, 0625 and 0800 GMT).

Iranian long-range artillery fire shelled Iraqi eco-industrial targets in Halabjah, Al-Dajbala [name as received], Sayyid Sadiq, Chuwartah, and Al-Sulaymaniyah in northern Iraq for 24 hours starting 0800 hours local time (0430 GMT) Sunday. The shelling caused considerable losses to the enemy.

In parts of the southern fronts, Iranian Gendarmerie forces continued their artillery duels with Iraqi troops Sunday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and setting fire to 10 gun emplacements and a command jeep of theirs.

The artillery fire of Iran's Muslim combatants inflicted heavy casualties and losses on Iraqi troops, halting their tanks movements in Mehanr, Nahr 'Anbar, and Yabis, western and southern sectors Sunday.

Iraqi engineering operations were checked in Qasr-e Shirin and Mehran Sunday, concluded the communique.

Tehran Notes Bomb Explosion in Baghdad

NC091114 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Text] A bomb explosion in the compound of the International Sheraton Hotel in Baghdad damaged hotel buildings and shattered most of the windows. According to IRNA, following this explosion, which took place last week, law enforcement forces of the Baghdad regime surrounded the area and restricted all movements of hotel occupants for hours.

Iraqi Army Desertions Reportedly Increasing

LD072209 Tehran IRNA in English 1706 GMT 7 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov 7, IRNA—The number of deserters from the front lines of the Iraqi Army is on a steep rise, according to a secret document seized from the Second Corps of the Iraqi Army.

The document marked 'top-secret' prepared by Ba'thist officials stationed at the Headquarters of the Second Iraqi Corps, expressed grave concern over the flight of conscripts and non-commissioned officers from the Army.

The document indicates that propaganda efforts by the Ba'thist regime to prevent desertions from the warfronts were frustrated.

A foreign guest at the first international book fair in progress at Tehran who has performed valuable research work on Muslim communities and who is an authority on political structure of Islamic countries, described the inability of the Iraqi regime in retaining its military forces as perfectly foreseeable.

Those who recourse to harassment, intimidation and criminal practices for their political survival, cannot succeed in the long run, he noted.

Iraqi Intelligence Official Executed

LD082245 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Text] According to a report from Ramadan Headquarters, the center for irregular warfare of the IRGC ground forces, the Lord of the Martyrs forces yesterday attacked a checkpoint on the Baghdad-Miqdadiyah axis, damaging the building and killing seven Iraqi military personnel stationed there. Two officers were among those killed.

According to the same report, the deputy head of the Miqdadiyah security intelligence organization was subjected to revolutionary execution, which was carryed out by a unit of the Lord of the Martyrs forces.

Iraqi Mujahidin Reportedly Kill 2 Officials

LD091648 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—An Iraqi security officer Jabar 'Abd al-Qader was executed in Baghdad by Iraqi mujahidin late October, said a report published by the weekly *Al-Amal al-Islami* Monday.

The report said that the mujahidin killed 'Abd al-Qader in a house on 14th Ramadhan Street in Al-Mansour district of Baghdad.

The slain officer was in charge of arresting and interrogating Iraqi Muslim dissidents fighting the Ba'thist regime, said the report.

In another development, the report said, an Iraqi Ba'th Party official 'Abd al-Husayn Rahi Ferown was killed in a bomb explosion at his villa late October.

The bomb was planted by the 'Mecca Martyrs' group of the Iraqi mujahidin.

Kurdish Forces Reportedly Ambush Iraqi Troops

LD091759 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] The General Staff of the three forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps reports that during the last few days the forces of the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdestan carried out four ambush operations on the Sangab-Chamchab road in the Sulaymaniyah Province of Iraq and succeeded in killing 45 Iraqi Armed Forces personnel. First Lieutenant Salim Hasan Salih is among the

dead. During the operations, 6 enemy tanks and personnel carriers, as well as 20 different types of light and heavy enemy vehicles, were destroyed and set on fire.

In another ambush carried out on Bukan road in Sulaymaniyah, the forces of the Patriotic Union of Kurdestan succeeded in capturing five Iraqi mercenaries. Two officers of the Iraqi Ba'thist Armed Forces were among those captured.

Iraqi-Trained 'Terrorists' Arrested in Kurdistan

LD091628 Tehran IRNA in English 1434 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Text] Sanandaj, Kurdistan Prov., Nov. 9, IRNA—A terrorist responsible for the recent bomb explosions in Kurdistan and Bakhtaran Provinces has been arrested in Marivan in this northwestern province by the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC). The saboteur had been trained in bomb planting in Iraq seven years ago.

Meanwhile, another two terrorists involved in five bomb planting operations were arrested in Baneh, Kurdistan Province, last week.

Hungarian Parliamentary Delegation Arrives 6 Nov

NC060636 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 6 Nov 87

[Text] According to IRNA, Mr Mihaly Korom, chairman of the Hungarian National Assembly Constitutional Council, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tehran today. They were welcomed by Mr Marvi, chief of the Islamic Majlis Foreign Commission. The report adds that Mr Korom and his entourage will discuss bilateral cooperation and relations in their meetings with our country's officials during their 1-week stay in Iran.

Meets With Majlis Members

LD080356 Tehran IRNA in English 1717 GMT 7 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—The visiting parliamentary delegation from Hungary held talks with head of the Majlis (parliament) Foreign Policy Committee Hojat ol-Eslam Marwi on expansion of Tehran-Budapest parliamentary relations, here Saturday. At the meeting, presence of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf was considered as the main cause for tension in the region. The Hungarian delegation extended an invitation for an Iranian parliamentary delegation to visit that country. The Hungarian delegation arrived here Friday morning for a week-long official visit.

Received by Velayati

LD082135 Tehran IRNA in English 0804 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov 8. IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati received the visiting chairman of the Constitutional Council of the Hungarian Parliament, Mihaly Korom, here Saturday evening.

Economic and cultural relations and ways of strengthening them were discussed in the meeting both sides expressing satisfaction with trend of bilateral ties in post-revolutionary period.

Korom who arrived here Friday heading a delegation also met with Foreign Ministry deputy for legal and parliamentary affairs and discussed issues of mutual interest. The Hungarian official called for withdrawal of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf.

Meanwhile the new United Nations development program representative to Iran, Perjanvid, in a meeting with Velayati here Saturday submitted his credentials.

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD090001 Tehran IRNA in English 1556 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—Visiting Hungarian chairman of the Constitutional Council of the Hungarian Parliament Mihaly Korom met with Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Sunday and discussed with him mutual relations and international issues.

In the meeting, Korom expressed satisfaction with the visit of the Hungarian parliamentary delegation to Tehran and emphasized on the need for expansion of Tehran-Budapest relations.

Korom said that Hungary attaches great importance to the promotion of its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He also extended an invitation to the Majlis speaker from his Hungarian counterpart to pay an official visit to Budapest.

The Majlis speaker accepted the invitation and expressed hope that he would pay a visit to Budapest at an early opportunity.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said there are various grounds on the basis of which the two countries can cooperate, and noted that there are no obstacles in the way of cooperation and friendship between Iran and Hungary.

The speaker said that the world is now suffering from the mischiefs of the imperialists and that those willing to fight imperialism should close ranks.

In relation with the U.S. naval fleet in the Persian Gulf, Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that although the U.S. is angry with the Islamic Revolution, it cannot do anything thanks to the solidarity and resistance of the Iranian nation.

He said initial encounters between Iran and the U.S. in the Persian Gulf has caused grave economic problems for the Western countries.

Velayati Sends Congratulations to Soviets

LD070843 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 7 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati sent a message of congratulation to his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze Saturday.

The message was cabled on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Socialist Revolution of the Soviet Union.

Minister Congratulates Soviets

LD080527 Tehran IRNA in English 1431 GMT 7 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Mohammad Javad Iravani sent a message to the chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, Konstantin Katushev, today, congratulating him on the 7th of November.

In his message Iravani also expressed hope that Tehran-Moscow relations would further expand.

Montazeri Urges Employment of Foreign Professors

LD081750 Tehran IRNA in English 1706 GMT 8 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Tehran, Nov 8, IRNA—The future leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, said Sunday that Iran should employ foreign university professors rather than send its youth to morally depraved societies for education. He said this practice would be in the best interest of the Iranian society.

Speaking at a meeting with minister of culture and higher education and his deputies in Qom today, the ayatollah said that there are many educated Iranians abroad who are committed to the Islamic Republic and the revolution. He said those people should be encouraged to return home and offer their expertise in their respective fields. [passage omitted]

Sri Lanka

Police Say 22 Killed by Colombo Car Bomb

BK100145 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0130 GMT 10 Nov 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 10 (*Lanka Puwath*)—As the dust settled on last evening's car bomb explosion close to the police station at Maradana about three kilometers from Colombo Fort police gave the number of dead whose bodies are now lying at the police mortuary as 22 and the number injured and warded at the general hospital Colombo was 106. Police told *Lanka Puwath* early this morning.

They said that several persons were being questioned in connection with the explosion.

The statements of the injured who were able to do so were been [as received] recorded by a team of investigators.

The government analyst was reported to have visited the scene of the crime.

The inquest into the deaths of the 22 victims is expected to be held later today by a Colombo magistrate.

A senior police official told *Lanka Puwath* last night that the proscribed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) which had according to intelligence reports planned a series of acts of violence with a view to destabilising the democratic government of Sri Lanka as the Provincial Council's Bill was presented and debated this week in Parliament. [sentence as received]

Security authorities have made a large number of arrests of JVP subversives during the last 48 hours in order to prevent violence and a massive security operation involving the Army, Navy, Air Force and police is under the Joint Operations Command (JOC) headed by General Cyril Ranatunge is now in force.

Last evening's bomb explosion occured at 1735 hours (local time), during the peak hour when office workers were commuting home from work.

TULF Criticizes Provincial Council Bill

BK070830 Hong Kong AFP in English 0742 GMT 7 Nov 87

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 7 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's leading Tamil politician, Appapillai Amirthalingam, on Saturday criticised President Junius Jayewardene for allegedly not giving enough powers to a proposed Tamil province.

"We cannot accept the bill in the present form and we will not ask our people to accept it either," Mr. Amirthalingam, leader of the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), told *Agence France-Presse* here.

He was referring to the controversial Provincial Councils Bill, to be introduced in Sri Lanka's Parliament next week, which seeks to give powers to a proposed Tamil-dominated province in the island nation's north and east.

Mr. Amirthalingam, who has been in India since 1983, said Colombo was trying to whittle down the scope of powers to the proposed province under pressure from hardliners within the ruling United National Party (UNP) and Buddhist clergy.

Under a July 29 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord, the Tamil-dominated Northern Province and multi-racial east are to be merged into a single administrative unit with a common governor and chief minister.

"Mr. Jayewardene is aiming to give the governor discretionary powers when it was agreed earlier he would only be titular head," he said. "In the same way, changes have been made on the questions of land, the acutal merger of the two provinces and several legal matters."

The Tamil leader added: "We have made our position very clear to both (Prime Minister Rajiv) Gandhi and Indian External Affairs Ministry officials."

The Sri Lankan president, who is scheduled to leave for home Saturday after a three-day official visit, Friday dismissed objections by Mr. Amirthalingam and other Tamil groups to the bill, saying the TULF had been "only disagreeing for the last two-and-a-half years."

He also told reporters the TULF leaders would have to return to Sri Lanka if they considered themselves Sri Lankans.

But Mr. Jayewardene admitted Friday there were differences between the Sri Lankan and Indian Governments on the scope of the bill, but expressed optimism that they would be overcome.

Newspapers reported in New Delhi on Saturday that Mr. Jayewardene had postponed his departure to have further discussions with Mr. Gandhi and his aides on changes, if any, to be made in the bill.

The two leaders have already held official-level talks and earlier met at Kathmandu during the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit this past week.

Mr. Amirthalingam, who has been threatened with death by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for his moderate views, said he and his party very much represented Sri Lanka's Tamil population, estimated at some 2.5 million.

"Mr. Jayewardene has been saying for too long that we don't represent any one," he said. "If the UNP can claim to represent the Sinhalese on the basis of the 1977 elections, then we too still represent the Tamils."

The TULF emerged as Sri Lanka's largest opposition in 1977 and won several local elections later. But its leaders were stripped of Parliament membership after they refused to pledge themselves to the Sri Lankan Constitution.

The Provincial Councils Bill has also been opposed by two Tamil smaller militant groups—the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) and the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front (ENDLF).

Supreme Court Approves Bill

BK081239 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1225 GMT 8 Nov 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 08 (*Lanka Puwath*)—The Supreme Court of Sri Lanka has approved the draft Provincial Council Bill and the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, states a press communique issued by the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo today.

Accordingly the proposed legislation does not violate the unity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka nor does it create a federal system of government.

The Supreme Court has also held that Section 154 (g.2) and Section 154 (g.3) of the proposed Thirteenth Amendment Bill should be approved by the people at a referendum in addition to being passed by a two-third majority in Parliament.

These two sections require a referendum in addition to a two-third majority in respect to the future amendments to the proposed Thirteenth Amendment.

The Supreme Court has held that this provision violates Article 83 of the Constitution.

The cabinet will consider on Monday (9.11.87) what amendments are necessary to bring the bill in line with the Supreme Court decision. This will be placed before Parliament.

Indian Peacekeeping Force Continues Offensive

BK081642 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Nov 87

[Text] The peacekeeping force [PKF] in Sri Lanka has taken control of more areas in the Jaffna Peninsula. The Vadamarachchi area, Nelliandy, Point Pedro, Mulai, Manippai, Mannar, and Karainagar are among the places which have come under the control of the PKF. Giving this information to newsmen in New Delhi this evening, an official spokesman said that the LTTE seems to have lost the ability to give a pitched fight to the peacekeeping force. It is also losing the sympathy of the people, and the LTTE men are unable to stay at the same place for more than a few hours. More and more people are coming forward to inform the PKF about the LTTE activities, particularly about mine laying. When the PKF secured the Vadamarachchi area, there was practically no resistance from the LTTE men. The area is the native place for Mr Prabhakaran and many other LTTE leaders.

In the search operations conducted by the peacekeeping force in Jaffna and other places, large quantities of arms and ammunition have been captured. During one such operation at Manippai, 26 LTTE men were killed. Seven of the PKF personnel were wounded. In another incident in the Batticaloa sector, three LTTE hardcore militants have been apprehended. In the search operations in other areas, 10 LTTE cadres were apprehended and some mortar bombs, hand grenades, and electric detonation devices captured. In the last 24 hours, one personnel of the peacekeeping force was killed and seven others were wounded.

The spokesman said curfew was lifted for 8 hours in Jaffna and the shops were opened. Forty-four tons of rations, 2,280 liters of diesel, and 600 liters of kerosene were distributed to the refugees.